



# The Messenger

## Time After Pentecost

### September 2015

Messiah Lutheran Church

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### FALL WORSHIP TIME OF 10:15 AM BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 13TH



### RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Join us for the annual kickoff of Sunday School and another epic program year here in our Spirit filled community! During the Sunday School hour, kids will get to meet their new teachers while parents meet with Pastor Dustin to discuss the many new opportunities for our young people at Messiah. Later on, our amazing choir will return after their summer hiatus to lead us in a powerful outdoor worship experience that will include the installation of our Sunday School teachers and a "Blessing of the Backpacks." Please make sure your youth brings their school backpack for this meaningful rite. As we always say, Lutherans love to eat, and following worship we'll gather for a potluck barbecue, games for all ages and of course an appearance by Messiah's very own mascot, Willard E. Bear. Interested in bringing something to share for the potluck or helping with set up? Just check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex!

### Hike Cascade Mountain Saturday, August 29th at 7:00am

Join the young adults of Messiah as we journey up what's been called "the easiest of the Adirondack High Peaks." After gathering in the Messiah parking lot at 7:00am, we'll carpool up the Northway to a trailhead near Lake Placid, enjoy a roughly five-mile round trip hike and get treated to some amazing views. Afterwards, we'll grab dinner before heading home. All ages are welcome although basic experience with hiking is strongly encouraged. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex and speak with Pastor Dustin if you have any questions.



### Choir News

If you love to sing, we've got just the place for you – Messiah's Choir loft! Choir Rehearsals will begin on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm (and are held every Thursday). Our first Sunday of singing will be Rally Sunday on September 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Doug Chilton at [mrdoug.church@yahoo.com](mailto:mrdoug.church@yahoo.com).

### FALL OFFICE HOURS

Our office hours have changed. The Parish Administrator, Rachel Davis is in the office each Monday and Wednesday from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Pastor Dustin Wright is available during the office hours of Monday through Thursday from 10:00am until 1:00pm. In case of emergencies, Pastor can be reached at (603)953-8782.



### New Historical Archive

We are currently looking for old photos and other items related to our nearly ninety-year history as a Spirit filled congregation here in Rotterdam. If you have anything that might be of interest, please speak with Susie Schaffer.



### CARE AND CONCERN

This summer 15 cards were sent out! If you know of someone who could use some cheering up, congratulations, sympathy or just a thinking of you card, please let Judy Becker know at 374-5104.

**A Note From Pastor Dustin**

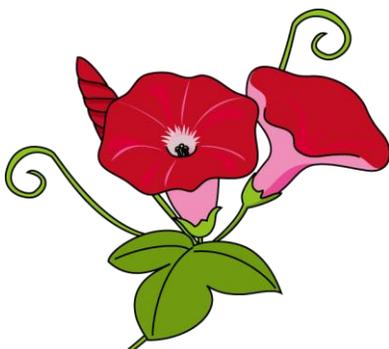
*So I'm -- I'm ready for anything and looking forward to a new adventure. - President Jimmy Carter*

*Sisters and Brothers,*

As most of you know, for the past five weeks during Sunday Worship we've journeyed together through John 6, in which Jesus teaches us about "eternal life" and how He indeed is "the Bread of Life." Christ's words are incredibly good news for sure, but if you're anything like me, the terms He uses might be a struggle for you... they're really abstract, airy sort of things that are often hard to wrap our minds around. Luckily enough, as I prepared to preach a fifth and final sermon on "the Bread of Life" this past Sunday morning, I had the opportunity to watch former President Jimmy Carter's *news conference about his recent cancer diagnosis*, of which the quote above was my absolute favorite part. President Carter's words will stick with me for a longtime, because in my mind, his outlook provides us with a real, concrete example of what eternal life in Christ is all about.

Being deeply engaged in the present while looking hopefully toward the future... living a thankful life... saying yes to God's radical abundance instead of living in fear... While the whole "hanging out with Jesus and all the saints forever in heaven" thing is a nice bonus, for our purposes here on Earth, the best part of Christ's news about eternal life is that it can propel us forward, liberating us to embrace life in community together RIGHT NOW. Bound up in Christ's love, we don't have to wait and there's nothing we need to do. Eternal, abundant life together in Christ is possible RIGHT NOW, a fact all of us in our human imperfection need to regularly be reminded about. As we move into another program year here at Messiah, welcoming a bunch of new Sunday School students (I'm currently counting seven), opening our new Bread of Life Food Pantry, launching a High School Youth Group and more, let us too be propelled into a future of immense promise, embracing whatever new adventure might come together in Christ.

God's peace,  
Pastor Dustin



**MEN'S GROUP**

Building off of last month's highly successful "Get Ed's Dunk Tank Out of the Parsonage Garage Rafters and Pizza Night," Messiah's men have been talking and we'd like to begin meeting on roughly a monthly basis to accomplish a small property improvement project and then enjoy a meal together. While we're still working out the details, our next project night will include installing our new memorial bricks, painting the Parish Administrator Office and other important tasks. Be sure to keep a lookout for a specific date and time in *The Weekly Update* and *Sunday Bulletin*, and please speak with Charlie Zitzmann or Pastor Dustin if you have any questions or suggestions for future projects.

**WELCA Event: A Community Conversation About Race in America**  
**Tuesday, September 15th 7:30-9:00pm**

Due to the race issues over the past year, people of color are asking churches around the country to discuss important issues about race. But, knowing how to engage in such conversation may feel more difficult than ever. Luckily, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recently held a webcast conversation between Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and William B. Horne II, an ELCA member from Florida and prominent African-American leader, to help guide discussion around such a difficult topic. The women of WELCA and Pastor Dustin are asking as many members of our Spirit filled congregation as possible to join together on September 15th to watch a taping of the webcast and then discuss how we can be better equipped as Christians to speak about race and racism in the future. All are welcome!  
*\* For those interested in finding out more about WELCA and planning out the group's many activities through the upcoming program year, please join us at 6:30pm for a brief meeting preceding the event.*

**Social Action**

It is getting closer to the opening of our Food Pantry. Our target open date is Monday, October 12th. We are meeting, Thursday, August 27th at 7PM, to start stocking the shelves with the items we have. If you can provide any items for the pantry, please view the list of needed goods. There is a sign-up sheet posted of the help we need for the Food Pantry. If a slot is filled, add your name by it, as we need all the help we can get. The Food Pantry will be for emergencies only. We will receive referrals from schools in our area. (Schalmon, Mohonasen, Altamont Elementary, Van Corlaer, Rotterdam Method Nursery School and the preschool at Bellevue Reformed) We will only be open when we receive a referral. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Judy Becker, Jill Becker or Pastor Dustin.

## MEET AND GREET WITH THE MONDAY EVENING CRAFTERS



Join the Monday Evening Crafters for refreshments and a showcase of previous and upcoming craft projects on Monday, September 21st from 7:00-9:00pm. All are welcome.

The Monday Evening Crafters meet each Monday evening from 7:00-9:00pm beginning on Monday, September 14th.

## Sunday School News

Our program this year will be a little different in that the kids will first begin with a song/prayer with Mr. Doug, Pastor and Kristen Olochnowicz and then break into two groups (PreK-2nd grade and 3rd-6th grade) to watch a short video with a lesson that accompanies the video. After the video and lesson are complete, the children will then break into smaller groups (PreK-K, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6) for an activity that is again age appropriate.

We are looking for additional Sunday School Leaders to accommodate this new structure. We are using the term "leaders", as teaching experience is not required to participate in the Sunday School Program and I feel this may have scared some people away in the past. The idea is to have a team of leaders for each of the two larger groups. These leaders would then split up further with the children when they divide up into the PreK-K, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 groups. Depending on the size of the group it will be beneficial to have additional teachers/helpers to assist with the activities. If we have enough leaders, the responsibility of planning an activity could shift from leader to leader each week making the load a little lighter for those individuals; or they could work as a team each week if they felt more comfortable in that situation.

We'll be using a new curriculum called "WHIRL," published by [www.wearesparkhouse.com](http://www.wearesparkhouse.com), which follows the same Bible passages discussed each week during worship and provides videos, activity sheets for the kids, as well as everything Sunday School Leaders will need for lesson planning. We are hoping this new structure will assist in facilitating the continued growth in our program that we've seen over the last few years. Please do not hesitate to contact Christine Demento with any questions you have and/or if you are interested in participating in the program. Our final organizational meeting for all Sunday School Leaders will take place Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00pm. We welcome and encourage all to consider participating! You can also contact Jody Fleming, Pastor or the church office. Thank you again; looking forward to see you all soon at Sunday School!



## CONFIRMATION

After a long summer break we're currently gearing up for another exciting year of Confirmation Class at Messiah. Our group of six students who have been together in classes for two years now will be confirmed as full adult members of our Spirit filled congregation during worship on **Sunday, November 15th**. At the same time however, we'll be welcoming in a new group of students this fall. So, for a couple months, Pastor Dustin will have quite the full house when we meet weekly for classes on **Sundays at 6:30pm** whenever Sunday School is in session!. Our first class will take place on **September 20th** as a joint parent/ youth gathering. We'd still love to have more folks in our classes however, so if you know a middle school age youth who could benefit from developing close friendships and having fun while learning about how the teachings of the church can be applied to contemporary life, please speak with Pastor Dustin!

## YOUTH GROUP

We were incredibly blessed over the past year by how much our confirmation class bonded over creating our new Youth Room, fundraising for the Youth & Family Mission Trip to Nashville and greatly increased participation in Sunday worship. As their Confirmation Day rapidly approaches however, we want to start planning now in order to make sure our soon to be confirmands remain active in our Spirit filled community. At the same time, we have a significant number of other high school aged youth who haven't been served by active youth programming at Messiah in many years. With these facts in mind, Pastor Dustin is asking all high school age and/ or soon to be confirmed youth, as well as their parents, to join together for a brainstorming session over pizza after worship on **Sunday, September 20th**. While we've had some initial discussions about monthly fun activities and the like, figuring out how we can continue to nurture our young people at Messiah long after their confirmed is incredibly important, so please join us!



## YOUNG ADULT GROUP

With an increasing number of young adults (folks roughly age 18 - 30) connected in some way to Messiah, we're in the initial stages of discerning some opportunities to get together and build stronger community with one another. Hikes, trivia nights and dinners together have been some possibilities discussed so far. If you or a young adult family member might interested in this excited opportunity, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

**COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY THANK YOU**

Thank You to everyone that participated in making the Community Block Party a success!



**GODS WORK. OUR HANDS**



Every fall, congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather together to serve in their local communities as part of a national event called "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday." This year, our Social Action Committee has decided to join the movement (albeit on a Saturday) by serving at the local Rotterdam Boys and Girls Club on **Saturday, October 10th from 1pm - 3pm**. We'll be helping out the local club by doing some painting and other important maintenance work and have a blast doing it! Best of all, part of the whole "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" movement is that we get to wear some pretty awesome t-shirts to represent our congregation! Sign-ups for the event and a t-shirt order form are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up by September 13th to ensure you get a t-shirt. If you have any questions, please speak with Deborah Winslow, Judy Becker or Pastor Dustin.

*Thank You Grace Gresham*

Have you noticed the breakfront located behind the last pew in the sanctuary? The nice addition was donated by "Amazing Grace" Gresham! We thank her for thinking of us, thank God for her life and continue to hold her family in prayer.

**MESSEIAH MEMBER MILESTONES**

***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!***

Ed and Laura Underkoffler	September 2
John and Dotty Diegel	September 30

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!***

Marcel Diegel	September 1
Kristen Olochnowicz	September 2
Jody Fleming	September 2
Denise Larrabee	September 7
Erica Lavenia	September 11
Molly Karrel	September 19
Bill Becker	September 23
Kyle Avery	September 30
Bryan Davis	September 30
Daniel Davis	September 30

***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, Tom Town, Theo Wegner. **Friends and family:** Kiki Axer, Jeannette Axford, Donna Biler, Isabella Caruso, Tom Chilton, Deb Connelly, Terri Dufeck, Kathy Faina, Jocelyn Fairlee, Emily Fonda, Makayla Gainswith, Barb Hamlin, Kathleen LaPointe, Victoria Lindman, Syliva MacFarlane, Jerry Morrison, Tina Prout, Joe Ritzo, Alicia Rizzo, John Roberge, Hazel Rodriguez, Greg Russell, Nzinga Smith, Kay Snodgrass. **Loved ones serving our country and others:** Jason Maione, Ken Ryan, Tim Zakriski, and Charles Hofmann.

**Pastor At The Pub**

Beginning **Wednesday, September 16th** and continuing through the remainder of 2015, Pastor Dustin's "Community Office Hours" will be transforming into "Pastor at the Pub" with a new date, location and time. In order to reach different groups in our local community, **every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00pm**, Pastor will be hanging out at the neighborhood watering hole, Mark's Grill, located at 1051 Curry Road in Rotterdam. Please stop by, enjoy a drink and phenomenal pub food (including free popcorn) and catch up with Pastor Dustin. All in the wider Rotterdam community who are looking for a new faith community are welcome to attend as well.

## **BREAD OF LIFE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY DONATION ITEMS**

*Please place your items in the bin located by the sanctuary doors in the narthex. Thank you!*

### **Grains**

Egg Noodles  
Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni etc.)  
Rice (plain)  
Rice Pouches (flavored)  
Other Grains

### **Breakfast Items**

Unsweetened Cereal (Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, etc.)  
Lightly Sweetened Cereal  
Pancake Mix (Complete)  
Pancake Syrup  
Oatmeal Packets  
Pop-tarts

### **Vegetables (Canned)**

Corn  
Green Beans  
Peas  
Carrots  
Mixed Vegetables  
Tomatoes (stewed, diced, etc.)

### **Fruit (Canned)**

Peaches  
Pineapple  
Pears  
Applesauce  
Fruit Cocktail

### **Protein (Canned/Jar)**

Peanut Butter  
Tuna  
Canned Beans (Pork & Beans, Baked Beans, etc.)  
Chicken  
Spam  
Ham

### **Beverages**

Coffee (Decaf/Regular)  
Milk (shelf stable)  
Evaporated Milk  
Juice Boxes  
Tea

### **Combination Foods**

Spaghetti Sauce  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Soup  
Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetios, etc.)  
Canned Stew  
Ramen Noodles

### **Ready Made Meals**

Hamburger Helper  
Tuna Helper  
Boxed Meals with Meat

### **Desserts/Snacks**

Cookies  
Pudding  
Granola Bars  
Animal Crackers  
Graham Crackers  
Crackers (saltine, butter, oyster, etc.)  
Fruit Snacks  
Raisins

### **Miscellaneous**

Jelly/Jam  
Coffee Creamer  
Spices  
Oil  
Paper Towels  
Paper Napkins  
Dish Detergent

### **Baby Items**

Baby Food (Stage 1 & Stage 2)  
Diapers  
Wipes  
Baby Wash

### **Health Care Items**

Toilet Paper  
Soap/Shower Gel  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrush  
Deodorant

**Should you wish to make a monetary donation to the Bread of Life Emergency Food Bank, please see  
Joyce Gresham**

## Worship Assignments for August 30 – October 11, 2015

	<b>August 30</b>	<b>September 6</b>	<b>September 13</b>	<b>September 20</b>	<b>September 27</b>	<b>October 4</b>	<b>October 11</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Linda Klein	Pamella Ford	Kristen Olochnowicz	Anthony Miller	Susie Schaffer	Betsy Ryan	Linda Klein
<b>Crucifer</b>	<b>Combined with Acolyte for Summer</b>	<b>Combined with Acolyte for Summer</b>	Kiersten Becker	Hanna Avery	Kendra Lavenia	Kiersten Becker	Hanna Avery
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kendra Lavenia	Hanna Avery	Mark Lavenia	Gabby Nadeau	Kyle Avery	Devin Hodoroski	Devin Hodoroski
<b>Lector</b>	Brian Karrel	Susie Schaffer	Amaya DiGiovanni	Linda Klein	Anthony Miller	Brian Karrel	Susie Schaffer
<b>Ushers</b>	Paul Bode John Crowther	Bill Becker John Diegel	Pamella Ford Susie Schaffer	Kendall Fleming Danielle Sefcovic	Paul Bode Beth Waugh	Bill Becker John Diegel	Pamella Ford Susie Schaffer
<b>Greeters</b>	Tammi Crowther Denise Larrabee	Allison Bode Nancy Stellrecht	Laura Underkoffler Beth Waugh	Betty Friebel Barb Sandmeyer	Cheryl Borski Hannah Borski	Laura Underkoffler Beth Waugh	Allison Bode Nancy Stellrecht
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Tina Bascom Dotty Diegel Amaya DiGiovanni	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
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Penny Incitti	<b>Baker Needed</b>	<b>Logan &amp; Molly Karrel</b>	<b>Jessica Lacosse</b>	<b>Baker Needed</b>	<b>Baker Needed</b>	<b>Baker Needed</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	As Needed	As Needed	No Nursery	Erica Lavenia Kendra Lavenia	Melissa DiGiovanni Amaya DiGiovanni	Molly Karrel Hanna Avery	Vanessa Ford-Roether Hannah Borski

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

# August 23 – September 26

The Lord's Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>9:30 am Holy Communion</b> <b>10:45 am Stewardship Meeting</b> <b>4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 2086</b> Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69	7 pm Compline Campfire Worship			7 pm Social Action Meeting		
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 30	31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5
<b>9:30 am Holy Communion</b> Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	7 pm Compline Campfire Worship	7 pm Christian Ed Meeting				
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> Sept 6	Sept 7	Sept 8	Sept 9	Sept 10	Sept 11	Sept 12
<b>9:30 am Worship</b> Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37		7pm Council Meeting		7pm Choir Rehearsal		
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> Sept 13	Sept 14	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17	Sept 18	Sept 19
<b>RALLY SUNDAY</b> <b>9:00 am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15 am Outdoor Worship/Holy Communion</b> <b>12:00 pm Rally Day Picnic</b> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	7 pm Worship and Music Meeting 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	630 WELCA Planning Meeting 7:30 WELCA: A Community Conversation About Race in America	7pm Pastor At The Pub	7pm Choir Rehearsal		
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> Sept 20	Sept 21	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26
<b>9:00 am Sunday School</b> <b>10:15 am Holy Communion</b> <b>6:30 pm Confirmation Class</b> Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54 James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	7pm Crafters Showcase		7pm Pastor At The Pub	7pm Choir Rehearsal		

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
2850 Guilderland Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12306

**Pastor**

Rev. Dustin Wright

**Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs 10a-1p

**Parish Administrator**

Rachel Davis

**Office Hours**

Mon/Wed – 9a-2p

**Council President**

Charles Zitzmann



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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 Sunday Worship at 9:30 am until  
September 13<sup>th</sup>-when Sunday Worship moves to 10:15am.*