

The Messenger

A monthly publication from our Spirit filled church.

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Messiah Lutheran Church
2850 Guiderland Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12306
www.messiahschenectady.org

Email:
office@messiahschenectady.org

Phone:
518.355.2311

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MessiahLC



We are a Spirit filled church following Jesus Christ.

The Month Ahead

Easter Basket Raffle | Shrove Tuesday through Palm Sunday

Our amazing 90th Anniversary Taskforce will be raffling off baskets once again to raise funds for the cost of our 90th Anniversary Directories. Like last time, it will be \$1 per ticket. Drawings will be held on Palm Sunday!

Adult Education: The Responsible Christian Sunday, April 2nd & April 23rd at 9:00am

The Adult Class will continue to discuss James Nelson's *The Responsible Christian* on April 2nd and 23rd. The class will not meet on April 9th or 16th.

On Sunday, April 2nd, the class will discuss The Trinity and God's Nature; God The Father: The Call to Creative and Ordering Love; Responding to God's Ordering Work; And God the Son: The Call to Creative Love.

On Sunday, April 23rd, the class will discuss: God The Holy Spirit: The Call to Communal Love; The Place of Self-Love; Love and Justice; God and International Conflict; Releasing Men from Bondage; And Christian Positions on War.

Come join us at the parsonage; Fair trade coffee will be provided by Pastor Dustin!

Outreach Committee Meeting Monday, April 3rd at 7:00pm

Please join us Monday, April 3rd at 7pm to speak about possible future outreach events. If you haven't attended any previous meetings, please feel free to still join us!

SICM@50: Schenectady Clergy Against Hate Forum

Tuesday, April 4th at 6:45pm
Mount Olivet Baptist Church
1068 Park Avenue,
Schenectady, NY 12308

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) is in the midst of a discernment process about its future and one thing that's been talked about is interest in SICM becoming an interfaith rather than only a Christian service organization. In recent

months Pastor Dustin has been active in Schenectady Clergy Against Hate, an informal group which includes Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Sikh clergy in addition to Christian leaders. Some of the clergy will be on hand for SICM's monthly assembly to help us explore what interfaith service and advocacy currently looks like in our local community! All are welcome and if you'd like to connect more with SICM speak with Assembly Delegates Nancy Stellrecht and Betsy Ryan.

**40 Days of Giving: A Lenten Journey About Economic Justice
March 29th & April 5th at 7:00pm**

The connection between faith, worship and justice was central for Martin Luther. His concern for the poor and his sharp rebuke of economic injustice lays the foundation for us today to see the many ways our faith calls us to strive for justice in our world. It's still not too late to join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7:00pm! We'll worship and reflect on how God's self-giving love transforms us and challenges us to work towards a more just and moral society. Gather with us in Christian community as we participate in this important Lenten discipline!



Holy Week 2017 Schedule

Sunday, April 9th: Palm Sunday @10:15am
& Coffeehouse Worship @6:00pm

Mon. April 10th – Wed. April 12th @6:30pm: Holy Week Vespers

Thursday, April 13th @7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 14th @7:00pm: Good Friday Cantata: Shadows

Saturday, April 15th: Jr. Luther League: Easter Egg Hunt & Children's Vigil @10:00am

& The Great Vigil of Easter @8:00pm

Sunday, April 16th @8:30am: Easter Breakfast

& Easter Sunday Service @10:15am

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9th at 10:15am

We begin our observance of Holy Week led by our children as they commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with a traditional palm procession and blessing. The tone of the service then quickly turns towards a dramatic presentation of the Matthew's account of Jesus' passion and death. Join us as we experience a central story of our faith as we begin Holy Week!

**Coffee House Worship:
Recharge for the Week Ahead!
Sunday, April 9th at 6:00pm**

An innovative worship experience that uses the most ancient of Christian traditions to better understand contemporary life. The Stockade's own Douglas J. Chilton will treat us to some incredible music upstairs in the Fellowship Hall using our new piano and communion will be served more as an actual meal, similar to how the first Christians celebrated the Eucharist! Each monthly Coffee House worship is also centered around a specific faith question, with this

month's being, "What's Holy Week really about?"

**Holy Week Vespers
Monday, April 10th -
Wednesday, April 12th at
6:30pm**

Members of our Spirit filled community begin Holy Week by gathering each evening to meditate on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Using an ancient chanted service called Compline, we'll hear the story of Mary's anointing of Jesus, experience Saint Paul proclaiming the power of Christ crucified and live out the moment at the Last Supper when Christ identifies Judas Iscariot as his betrayer. Join us for these brief, contemplative services as we prepare to enter the Three Days.

**Hudson Mohawk Conference
Chrism Mass
Wednesday, April 12th at
3:00pm**

**First Lutheran Church in Albany
646 State Street, Albany, NY
12203**

Join Bishop John Macholz, Pastor Dustin and many of our Visitation Deacons for an

annual worship service including the blessing of anointing oils and a renewal of ordination vows. It also affords us a time of prayer and collegial worship as we continue through the rigors of Holy Week. If you are interested in carpooling, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 13th at 7:00pm

With night fall our Lenten observance comes to an end and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection! At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Good Friday Cantata:

Shadows

Friday, April 14th at 7:00pm

Please join us on Friday, April 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. as the choir takes us on a journey through Good Friday when they perform "Shadows – A Service of Tenebrae", written by Douglas E. Wagner.

Junior Luther League: Easter Egg Hunt & Children's Vigil
Saturday, April 15th at 10:00am
The Olochnowicz Estate

Join Messiah's Junior Luther League for one of our favorite

traditions... an Easter Egg Hunt at the Olochnowicz Estate! Enjoy a delicious breakfast with the kids, try to find the golden egg and maybe you'll even get a chance to meet the Easter Bunny! Following the Easter Egg Hunt, we'll start a new tradition... a brief, kid-friendly version of our Easter Vigil service around a campfire. For more information, please see Junior Luther League Leader Kristen Olochnowicz.

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 15th at 8:00pm

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Based on the most ancient of Christian traditions, the Great Vigil is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. We gather around the Sacred Fire, interpret modern life through the stories of our faith, remember our baptism, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection. Pastor John Califano will be co-presiding with Pastor Dustin and we may have some additional special guests as well.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 16th at 8:30am

Join us for our 46th Annual Easter Breakfast from 8:30am – 9:45am. We'll have eggs to order, bacon, toast, home fries,

coffee, juice and coffee cake. Not only that, but we'll also be handing out a very special reward! A signup sheet is on the bulletin board and if you are interested in serving or helping with breakfast, please see Kitchen Committee Chairs Karen Kreischer and Rich Becker.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16th at 10:15am

On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen! And hey... one of our young adults Polly Festa will be doing a very special Children's Sermon with ACTUAL BUNNIES.



Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Monday, April 17th at 7:00pm

Our Faith Formation Committee meeting will take place on April 17th at 7:00pm. Anyone with input for outside speakers, adult education, book discussions, Sunday school, or planning for Reformation Night is encouraged to attend.

WELCA Project Meeting

Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00pm

April 18 at 7:00 pm WELCA will be having a Project Meeting to finish up the quilts. Hostesses are Allison Bode and Betsy Ryan.



breadfortheworld

HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Sunday, April 23rd at 11:30am

As a kickoff to our Spring Stewardship Campaign Pastor Dustin will be conducting a Bread for the World Offering of Letters! Every year, Bread for the World invites churches across the country to take up an offering—not of money, but of letters to Congress on an issue that is important to hungry people. During Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters: Doing Our Part to End Hunger, hundreds of thousands of people will urge their members of Congress to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to end hunger. Come learn more about these programs and help change the system that allows people to be hungry in the richest country in the world!



Sunday School Special Project Day

Sunday, April 23rd at 9:00am
Resurrection Garden

We are planning on making a special Resurrection Garden at 9 am on April 23rd. It may get a bit messy, so don't send the kids in their "best Sunday clothes" that day. Please let Cheryl know if your kid(s) will be attending Sunday School that day, so she can make sure there will be enough supplies. You can email Cheryl at daizylady123@aol.com.



Congregation Council Meeting

Monday, April 24th at 7:00pm

This month main topics for discussion at our council meeting will include further refining our Community Needs Assessment process, building a strong Spring Stewardship Campaign and brainstorming about better managing increased pastoral care needs in our congregation. If there's anything you'd like to be on

the agenda, please speak with Congregation President Dave Barnett.

Book Discussion: *The Third Reconstruction* by William Barber

Tuesday, April 25th at 11:00am & 7:00pm

The book for April will be *The Third Reconstruction* by William Barber. A modern-day civil rights champion tells the stirring story of how he helped start a movement to bridge America's racial divide. Discussions will take place on April 25th at 11:00am & 7:00pm. Discussions are open to all. If you are unable to attend the discussion, feel free to send an email comment to Jean at dodgerjones@yahoo.com and we will include it in our discussion.

Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 26th at 7pm

Join us on Wednesday, April 26th at 7pm for our Property Committee Meeting! For more information on what will be happening, get in contact with Charlie Zitzmann or Rich Stigberg!

Community Luther Night
Sunday, April 30th at 4:00pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**547 Saratoga Road,
Schenectady, NY 12302**

Lutherans from Our Redeemer in Scotia, Good Shepherd in Glenville and Messiah are gathering with other area Lutherans to celebrate Martin Luther in music, storytelling, Luther trivia games, food and just plain fun!! Combined

choirs (**with anyone else who wants to sing this single event**) will sing a few familiar Bach pieces, the gathered multitudes will sing a couple of Luther's well-known hymns accompanied by Pastor Deron Milleville on organ, Chris Nash will tell Luther stories, Erica Walz and Gail Campbell Bullis will sing Bach solos accompanied by Malcolm Kogut who will close the concert part with a good old organ rendition of a Bach piece. And this is just the beginning. A light dinner will be served while we all listen to a great German music band led by Gregory Reinwald with Victor Meister and Nicolas Pfeister. This is a chance to celebrate the joy of being Lutheran with others and the beauty of Bach's music-so strongly associated with Lutherans. There will be a good will offering gathered in the community chest-an idea Luther and his townspeople came up with long ago. Offerings will be divided between Bethesda House and SICM. If you're interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Monday, May 1st at 7:00pm

Up for discussion at this meeting is the continued refinement of our Coffeehouse Worship series, unpacking learnings from our recent ELCA-sponsored worship retreat, planning late spring and summer services as well as brainstorming around how to make our worship services

more attractive to young adults. We'd love any feedback you might have! Just message Pastor Dustin!

Save the Date: Messiah's 90th Anniversary Dinner Saturday, May 6th at 6:00pm Settles Hill Tree Farm

Keep a look out for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for our special 90th Anniversary dinner. Additional information will be released shortly!

Biannual Calendar Meeting Sunday, May 7th at 11:30am

Twice a year all our committee chairs and other interested individuals are invited to come together after worship and plan out the next six months of our life together in Spirit filled community. We especially need help brainstorming (and coordinating) fun new fellowship and outreach events, so please join us!

Crop Walk

Sunday, May 7th at 1:30pm

Alright Messiah Walkers – get your sneakers ready! We will once again be participating in the CROP Walk scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2017. The walk begins at Emmanuel Friedens Church, Nott Terrace at 1:30 (after a BRIEF opening ceremony). Our goal is to have at least 15 walkers and collect \$500 or more. If you would like to walk, please see Jill Becker. If you would like to support our walkers by donating to this very worthwhile cause, there will be a table set up in the narthex on Sunday, April 23, April 30 and May 7.

Biannual Calendar Meeting Sunday, May 7th at 11:30am

Twice a year all our committee chairs and other interested individuals are invited to come together after worship and plan out the next six months of our life together in Spirit filled community. We especially need help brainstorming (and coordinating) fun new fellowship and outreach events, so please join us!

Joint Luther League Night Sunday, May 7th at 6:00pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**547 Saratoga Road,
Schenectady, NY 12302**

A number of our high school youth are already interested in the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, which is awesome! As our youth will be going together with youth from Good Shepherd, we figured both our groups ought to get to know each other! Join Pastor Dustin and Pastor Deron at Good Shepherd to make some new friends, play some sweet games and find out more about the youth gathering. It's gonna be a totally epic time!

Reformation Night: The Life, Food and Libations of Martin Luther

**Wednesday, May 10th at
6:30pm**

In celebration of the 500 Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation our Faith Formation Committee is hosting a potluck dinner and a movie night featuring Rick Steves' new film *Luther and the*

Reformation! Bring a German-themed dish to share, get ready to enjoy some great brews from local breweries and learn about the founder of our faith tradition! Check out the narthex bulletin board to sign up!

Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 13th at 9:00am

After a rough winter, it's time to spruce up our facilities both inside and out! In addition to yard work and landscaping we'll be working on a variety of projects including fixing windows, restraining sanctuary pews and perhaps some painting. Many hands make light work! Please join us!

Fundraising Dinner: Camp Calumet Makes Ministry Happen!

Saturday, May 20th at 6:00pm

A bunch of our kids are going to Camp Calumet Lutheran in Freedom, New Hampshire this summer and we definitely need to support them in this important faith formation experience! Join our Junior Luther League, Pastor Dustin as well as Rev. Bill White (Pastor Dustin's pastor from growing up

in Connecticut) for a spaghetti dinner and hear about how attending Calumet strengthens the sense of ministry for everyone in Lutheran congregations! A freewill offering will be taken towards our goal of raising \$2000 to subsidize the cost of attending camp. Signup on the narthex bulletin board and if you have any questions speak with Cheryl Borski or Kristen Olochnowicz.

News You Can Use

WELCA Recipe Book

We are looking for your favorite recipe! WELCA will be creating our Messiah Recipe Book! This book will be a Hard Cover, Three Ring Binder with some old favorite recipes and hopefully some new ones!

Recipe Forms: PLEASE PRINT NEATLY (We have to hand type these into their system) *Limit 5 recipes per person *Recipe Forms are due back in box BY AUGUST 13TH **Don't have time to write it up? Drop off your recipe card with your name on it and we will fill it out for you & return your recipe! Coming on sale FALL 2017...**

Bottle Tabs

You may have noticed that there is now a big gaudy looking jug in the Narthex with bottle tabs in it; no need to worry, it's not garbage! From now until June, we will be collecting bottle tabs to bring with us to the Upstate New York Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly Planning Team has yet to determine where to send proceeds to, but once they figure that out, we'll be sure to let you all know!



Care & Concern Report

Everyone who attended the pot luck dinner at Glendale Nursing Home agreed a good time was had by all. 20 people attended, including four residents. Hanna Borski and Marcus DiGiovanni handed out the spring greeting cards made by the Sunday School kids. The residents really enjoyed them.

We are compiling a list of people who would be willing to drive members to doctor's appointments as needed. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those interested in driving. If you have any questions please see Betsy Ryan, Barb Hallett or Susie Schaffer.



If you are in need of transportation for an appointment, please feel free to contact Pastor Dustin or Betsy Ryan (c. 518-847-6111).

9 cards were sent out last month.

Social Action Update

The Social Action Committee is looking in to some volunteer opportunities for the near future. One is to possibly serve meals at the City Mission and the other to pack food at the Regional Food Bank. We also will be serving 2 weeks at SICM Summer Lunch. More information to follow.

Our food pantry has been very busy. Since January, we have served 76 clients (33 families).

We have one client who has been coming to the pantry for the last five months. She had found a minimum wage seasonal job in November and because of her job, her SNAP benefits have been reduced drastically. After Christmas, she lost her job. Some of her neighbors were also helping her with some food and not knowing that she was a diabetic, they gave her food she couldn't use. So, she brings that food to us to pay us back for helping her. (We have some food for diabetics).

She recently found a part-time job in a school lunch room and she is very happy. She is such a sweet lady and has become a friend to us all. These are the clients we are helping. They are

working and trying to make ends meet.

We are so glad we are able to serve them.

We just applied to become a member of the Regional Food Bank. This will give us a place where we can purchase food for \$.16 a pound and make our dollars to further.

Thanks to all who support and volunteer. If it wasn't for you, we would not be able to have this pantry. We are surely a "spirit filled church".

Young Adult Group Update

We've figured out that Sundays may not be the best day to meet up. Our Young Adult Facebook Group has a poll where you can indicate what days work best for you; Rianne will be sending out texts to members who haven't yet responded in the next week or so. (So far, Saturdays are looking the most favorable. April 22nd or 29th are two possible dates.) Once we figure out the best day to meet, we will spice things up a bit and have our meetup at one of Schenectady's several coffee houses or restaurants in the stockade. If you have any suggestions, let Rianne know! Appetizers will be taken care of, you will only be responsible for additional drinks and meals if you choose. If we have a good enough turnout, we can finally get future meetups and a service day planned and put on our calendar!

90th Anniversary Update

The 90th Anniversary Taskforce has been hard at work with fund raising by raffling Easter Baskets. The names will be drawn on Palm Sunday. Thank you to everyone for all the support you have given us!



Bible Order

Have you been wanting to buy a bible but don't know where to get one, think it might be a bit too expensive, or just haven't gotten around to it? If we have enough people interested in buying a total of ten or more bibles, we can order softcover Lutheran Study Bibles through Augsburg Fortress (ELCA's publishing company) for \$18.75 each, down from \$25! So far we have 5 bibles waiting to get ordered – we just need at least 5 more in order to move forward with the bulk purchase! The Lutheran Study Bible includes the historical, cultural, and geographic background of a particular passage; key words or themes in the context of other parts of Scripture; Lutheran theological insights and catechetical connections drawn from particular passages; and commentary & questions that encourage life appreciation.

For more information, please speak with Pastor Dustin!

Announcing THE PLAN for Summer 2017: Sunday Fun Day with Pastor Dustin!

So, here's deal... attendance tends to go down at worship during the summer for a variety of reasons. Folks are understandably traveling, our sanctuary is sometimes a bit warm, but furthermore there's very little programming for our children to take part in. Additionally, it's a bummer that Pastor Dustin rarely has much time to spend with our children until they reach confirmation class. Thus, following the recommendation of our Worship & Music and Faith Formation Committees, our Congregation Council adopted THE PLAN for this summer! Instead of switching to our traditional summer worship time of 9:30a, we'll keep our regular time of 10:30a. **This will in turn allow Pastor Dustin to teach a camp counselor-ish learning experience for children and their families he's tentatively calling "Sunday Fun Day with Pastor Dustin" at 9:00am!** We'll be trying out THE PLAN this summer and evaluating how it works in the fall.

Hartwick Seminary Summer Institute of Theology Save the Date

July 23-27th, 2017

Whether you are a lay leader, are just interested in going away for a week during the Summer, or something in between and wish to learn more about the Bible, Lutheranism, Christian Worship, Deacon Ministry, you may want to keep an eye out for more information about the Hartwick Seminary Summer Institute of Theology! This is typically held during the last week of July from Sunday to Friday. If you would like further information, please get in touch with Pastor Dustin!

Messiah Welcomes Dakota Schaffer as Communications Coordinator!!!

As part of our Messiah Builds Leaders experiential learning program for young adults, Dakota Schaffer was recently installed as our new Communications Coordinator. As outlined in the Learning Covenant he presented to our Congregation Council, he has four goals for his upcoming year in this position:

1. Improve graphic design skills.
2. Strengthen communication skills.
3. Learn social media and web outreach techniques.
4. Develop a sense of professionalism in the workplace and in various ministry settings.

Be sure to welcome Dakota when you have a chance and we thank him very much for taking part in this awesome opportunity!



Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Taskforce Update



Our RIC Taskforce met this past week and to put it quite frankly, after two months of listening to folks' questions and feelings about adopting a state welcoming the LGBT individuals in our Spirit filled church, we heard almost no negative feedback. That said, we'd like to host four events throughout the year in order to provide ample opportunities for everyone to better understand how our faith relates to becoming an RIC congregation and to voice any concerns. On Sunday, June 25th following worship we'll host a screening of *For the Bible Tells Me So*, a film exploring the lives of five different Christian families with gay children. Later this summer we'll host a panel discussion with LGBT persons of faith, family members and our very own Katie Becker offering a young adults' perspective on these issues. This coming fall we'll host another screening, this time of Katie Couric's recent film with National Geographic entitled *A Gender Revolution*, which explore the lives of families with transgender children. In early 2018, we hope to host a forum with local ELCA pastors who've presided over congregations who've previously adopted an RIC welcoming statement. Depending on how conversations go we hope to adopt our own statement at our next Annual Meeting of the Congregation in late January/ early February 2018. Finally, members of our RIC Taskforce will be available in the narthex during worship this May to answer any questions you might have!

Running for the Carpet Fundraiser

Last year Messiah made a long-term investment in our future by continuing the work of refurbishing our parsonage. We raised over \$6000 through Pastor Dustin's "Running for the Bathroom" campaign, which paid for more than half the cost of renovating a badly damaged bathroom and installing a new furnace/ air conditioning system.

This year, Pastor Dustin is at it again working towards the more modest goal of raising \$950 to pay for the installation of new carpeting in the second floor of the parsonage (the current carpeting is over fifty years old). He'll be running a half marathon on Saturday, May 20th in New Paltz, and we invited you to sponsor each of his 13 miles! Please chip in and invest in the future of our congregation! In addition to contributing online you can make a check out to Messiah with "parsonage carpeting" in the memo line.



Designated Giving at Messiah

At its last meeting, our Congregation Council adopted a plan to standardize our Designated Funds, monies set aside for special projects outside of regular offerings. What follows is a list of current funds. If you'd like to contribute to one of these important causes, please speak with Financial Secretary Penny Incitti!

1. **Adult Education Fund:** Used to supplement budgeted spending on guest speakers and materials for our adult education ministry.
2. **Choir Fund:** Used to supplement budgeted spending on music and others resources needed by our music ministries.
3. **Dr. Robert Doremus Emergency Fund:** Used to pay for emergency one-time expenses and budgeted expenses of the annual fund in case of a large deficit.
4. **Food Pantry Fund:** Used for purchases of food and other programming needs of the Bread of Life Food Pantry.
5. **Internship Fund:** Used to pay for leadership development opportunities for Messiah's youth and young adults, particularly through participation through the SICM Summer Internship program.
6. **Junior Luther League Fund:** Used to supplement budgeted spending on programming for Messiah's Junior Luther League, a fellowship group for primarily elementary school aged children and their families.
7. **Memorial Fund:** Used for the purchase of permanent worship appointments and other permanent objects need to carry out the ministries of Messiah Lutheran Church.
8. **Outreach Fund:** Used to supplement the evangelism activities and other ministries intended to grow the membership of Messiah Lutheran Church.
9. **Pastor's Discretionary Fund:** Used to assist individuals in acute financial need at the Pastor's discretion. Funds primarily given in lieu of pastoral compensation for weddings, funerals, etc. of members of the congregation. The party responsible for use of this fund is the **Pastor**.
10. **Property Fund:** Used to supplement budgeted spending on property improvements, especially capital improvement campaigns that do not have their own dedicated temporarily restricted funds.
11. **Rich Hallett Accessibility Fund:** Used for the long-term goal of making Messiah's facilities fully accessible to differently abled persons.
12. **Sunday School Fund:** Used to pay for special projects, events and gifts of our Children's Sunday School ministry.
13. **Youth and Family Fund:** Used to pay for programming of Messiah's Luther League for middle and high school youth and their families

SPRING STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: LIKE A MUSTARD SEED!

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." - Matthew 13: 31 - 32

In the waters of baptism, we are all called to be Disciples of Christ. Our Stewardship Committee is working this spring to help everyone discern how they can use their strengths and passions to better serve our Messiah family and the community. Beginning on Sunday, April 23rd and continuing throughout the Easter season, temple talks, presentations, guest preachers and committee explanations will be offered to help each and every single member at Messiah discover their passion and identify small ways they're called to serve. We hope to show the congregation that our continued successful growth is based on the work of many. Then, on Sunday, June 4th as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, we'll consecrate our Time & Talent's to the glory of God!

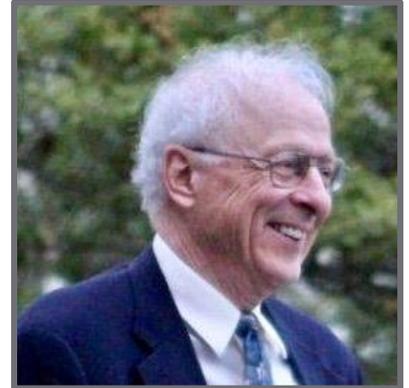
Here's a detailed timeline of our planned events:

- **Sunday, April 23rd after worship:** Pastor Dustin leading a Bread for the World Offering of Letters and discussion about outside service organizations.
- **Sunday, April 30th after worship:** Tammi Crowther leading a "How Not to Get Burned Out" workshop.
- **Sunday, May 7th after worship:** Biannual Calendar Meeting with time to brainstorm about upcoming events.
- **Sunday, May 14th during worship:** Mother's Day Sermon on Service led by our children.
- **Saturday, May 20th at 6:00pm:** "How Camp Calumet Inspires Congregations to Make Ministry Happen" Fundraising Dinner and Conversation with Rev. Bill White (Pastor Dustin's mentor and pastor growing up).
- **Sunday, May 21st during and after worship:** Rev. Bill White preaching and leading a workshop on "Serving in a Rapidly Growing Congregation."
- **Sunday, May 28th after worship:** Memorial Weekend Brunch and Conversation with Pastor Dustin at Tops.
- **Sunday, June 4th during and after worship:** Rev. Chuck Schwartz preaching on the Priesthood of All Believers and Ministry Fair.

Any time you can spare to help our ministries will continue to enrich our Messiah experience. We have grown so quickly that it is imperative we continue working to enhance our total faith based experience.

APRIL MINISTER OF THE MONTH: Merle Longwood

Merle Longwood is a lay, non-ordained, theologian and an emeritus professor of religious studies at Siena College, where he taught ethics for 37 1/2 years. He earned his M. Div. from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul and his Ph.D. in Christian Social Ethics at Yale University. He has two adult daughters, Wendy, who lives in Brooklyn, and Leda, who lives in Nashville with her three daughters. Merle's interests include hiking, skiing, theatre, films, concerts, and especially engaging conversations.



Since joining our Spirit filled congregation a couple years back Merle has ministered here in a wide variety of ways. He currently serves as a member of the Congregation Council, a member of the Faith Formation Committee and our Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Taskforce. Merle's taught a number of different adult education courses at Messiah Church including "Lutheranism 101," "The Faith of Our Neighbors" and most recently "The Responsible Christian: Ethics in the 21st Century."

So here's the thing... young adults have paid thousands of dollars over the years at Siena College to learn from Merle and we're lucky enough to learn from him for free! Definitely check out our Adult Education classes at 9:00am in the Parsonage and thanks so much Merle for all you do!!!

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER: Rianne Johnson



The race to get stuff done before Holy Week is real! I'm almost there but still have quite a bit left to go. Once all is taken care of, I'll finally have time to sit back and focus on everything I've been really wanting to get done but haven't yet had time to touch. One major skill this job has taught me is how to prioritize! It's a never-ending process.

I should hopefully hear back from nursing school soon to see if I've made it in or not. I'm not going to lie, I'm very anxious about what my future might hold. I don't really have as much of a backup plan in mind as I'd like.

I've been continuing to read my big stack of books and have recently completed *The Freedom of a Christian* by Martin Luther. Last Wednesday's Lenten topic was on livelihood and vocation which reminded me that I had an untouched copy of *God at Work* by Gene Edward Veith Jr. on my bookshelf; I started reading it yesterday and am currently halfway done with it. It's a really quick read and I have to admit, there are a few sections that I disagree with, but it is really insightful. It talks about the Christian's calling in the world, how God works through us, vocation, finding our vocations, and what our different callings may be in different aspects of life. While I've been reading this book, I've thought quite a bit about my journey of figuring out "what I want to be when I grow up." If I make it into nursing school, I'll be really happy. If I don't make it in, I know the door isn't fully shut. I can always take some science classes, try again, and be sure to apply to more schools so that I have more options. (I'd be guaranteed admission into a good amount of schools with the scores I got – HVCC is just very selective.) I'll be sure to let everybody know when I hear back about the school's decision!

PASTOR'S LETTER: REV. DUSTIN G. WRIGHT



Geesh, I already wrote TWENTY-SIX articles for this edition of *the Messenger*... there sure is a lot going on! With that in mind, I'd like to keep this short and simply remind folks about the goals we set last fall for our life together in 2017:

- Increasing congregational leadership capacity and leadership development programming.
- Diversifying our membership, particularly in regard to people of different races, abilities and gender identities.
- Improving programming and facilities for our children.
- Fostering a spirit of brotherhood and service amongst the men of our congregation.

Without a doubt, whether it be through supporting our young adults in the Messiah Builds Leaders program to bringing on a number of new committee chairs and organization leaders, we're doing a great job of reaching that first goal. Through our smoothly running RIC process I believe goal number two is going great as well. And goal number three... wow! I was having a pillow fight with ten of Junior Luther Leaguers at 7:00am at the Lock-In last Sunday morning with Backstreet Boys blasting in the background, we're doing a FANTASTIC job of providing programming for kids!

My deep concern however is goal number four, “fostering a spirit of brotherhood and service amongst the men of our congregation.” Outside of a strong showing at our Christmas Party, we haven't done much in this area at all. As I've stated repeatedly in recent sermons, [the biggest health threat facing middle-age men is loneliness](#), but it doesn't have to be this way, especially when we have such a Spirit filled community like Messiah!

In the coming months, I plan on convening a series of “scotch summits” to brainstorm ideas about how to work on this issue with the men of our congregation, but I need your help. Women, ask your husband to come to church with you or better yet, ask your children to tell their dads why church is so important to them. Or at very least, have some hard conversations with the men in your life, whoever they are, about why it's hard to connect at church. If you're a guy, think about what has connected you and how we can strengthen that connection. I firmly believe this is the top area we need to work on in 2017 and I need your help! Any idea you have would be greatly, greatly appreciated.

God's peace,

Pastor Dustin

Prayer List

Please pray for Our members: Bill Becker, Dave Ellis, Lore Ellis, Sue Force, Betty Friebel, Marion Lewis, Bob Reisinger, Zach Schaffer, Tom Town, Theo Wegner. **Our friends and family:** Bonnie Bianchi, Donna Biler, Maria Caruso, Ned Cornman, Nicholas, Regina & Hudson Davis, Jamie DeCanio, Pat Disbrow Koch, Terri Dufeck, Brittany Ellers, Kathy Faina, Florence Friebel, Barb Hamlin, Cindy Heydrick, Margit LaForest, Kathleen LaPointe, Victoria Lindman, Syliva MacFarlane, Will Morton, Carol Presley, Alicia Rizzo, John Roberge, Hazel Rodriguez, Chris Sabatini, Nzinga Smith, Kay Snodgrass, Jason Townsend, Jordanne Unser, Susan White, Carol Winick. **Our loved ones serving our country and others:** Jason Maione, Ken Ryan, Tim Zakriski.

If you have a friend or loved one you would like to add to our prayer list, please email Rianne at office@messiahschenectady.org or complete a Prayer Request Card (kept on the Ushers' Table in the back of the Sanctuary) and put it in the Parish Administrator's mailbox.

Messiah Birthdays

Devin Hodoroski April 1st
 Rianne Johnson..... April 1st
 Dotty Diegel..... April 2nd
 Tina Bascom April 7th
 Maryann Jacobs..... April 7th
 Anthony Miller..... April 8th
 Rich Becker April 9th
 Phil Davis April 9th
 Tom Collins April 10th
 Cecile Stewart..... April 19th
 Hannah Crowther April 20th
 Barb Hallett April 22nd

Messiah Anniversaries

Cam & Maryann Jacobs..... April 1st
 Bill & Judy Becker..... April 4th
 Andrew & Holly Kernozek April 14th
 Betsy & Jim Ryan..... April 15th
 Gerald & Hilda Hoffstetter April 18th
 Dick & Joyce Gresham..... April 26th

If we're missing your birthday or anniversary, or have an incorrect date, please let Rianne know at office@messiahschenectady.org

Readings for April

April 2nd:

Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45

April 9th:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Matthew 26:14--27:66

April 16th:

Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Colossians 3:1-4
 Matthew 28:1-10

April 23rd:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm 16
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

April 30th:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

Worship Assistants for April 2nd – May 7th

	April 2nd	April 9th	April 16th	April 23rd	April 30th	May 7th
Worship Deacon	Betsy Ryan	Sue Schaffer	Kody Schaffer	Pamella Ford	Linda Klein	Kristen Olochnowicz
Acolyte	Hannah Crowther	Logan Karrel	Kyle Avery	Abriel McGuire	Jesse Mathis	Hannah Borski
Crucifer	Devin Hodoroski	Olivia Tedford	Hanna Avery	Mark Lavenia	Devin Hodoroski	Olivia Tedford
Lector	Rich Becker	Linda Klein	Rianne Johnson	Margaret Glennie	Rachel Mathis	Brian Karrel
Ushers	Phil Davis John Crowther	Bill Becker John Diegel	Kendal, Danielle, Cal	Marilyn Barnett Jim Miller	Amanda Stigberg Kyle Avery	Paul Bode John Crowther
Greeters	Cheryl Borski Nancy Stellrecht	Carly DiSanto Marilyn Barnett	Grace & Sarah Olochnowicz	Beth Waugh Carly DiSanto	Betty Friebel Barb Sandmeyer	Allison Bode Nancy Stellrecht
Altar Guild	Jill Becker & Grace Olochnowicz	Dotty Diegel & Sarah Olochnowicz	Pamella, Ella, & Denise	Joyce Gresham Barb Sandmeyer	Betsy Ryan Beth Waugh	Jill Becker Grace Olochnowicz
Bread Baker	Ann Marie Gray			Penny Incitti		
Nursery	Diane Fisher Hannah Borski	Vanessa Ford- Roether Amber Hodoroski	Erica & Mark Lavenia	Molly Karrel Hanna Avery	Melissa & Amaya DiGiovanni	Diane Fisher Kiersten Becker
Torch Bearers			Kiersten Becker Kendra Lavenia			
Announcer	Merle Longwood			Penny Incitti		Pete Jones

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please arrange to switch with another worship assistant directly.
Thank You!

Parish Calendar for April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9am Adult Ed: Ethics 9am Sunday School 10:15am Service 6:30pm Confirmation Class Purple	3 7pm Monday Evening Crafters 7pm Outreach Committee Meeting	4 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062 6:45pm SICM Assembly	5 7pm 40 Days of Giving: A Sustainable Future	6 7pm Choir Practice	7 10:30am Piano Tuning	8 11am GS Troop 2431
9 9am Sunday School 10:15am Passion Sunday Service 6pm Coffeehouse Worship 6:30pm Confirmation Class Purple	10 6:30pm Holy Week Vespers 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	11 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062 6:30pm Budget Reconciliation Meeting 6:30pm Holy Week Vespers 7pm Choir Practice	12 3pm Hudmo Chrisn Mass 6:30pm Holy Week Vespers	13 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	14 7pm Good Friday Worship	15 10am Junior Luther League: Easter Egg Hunt 8pm Resurrection of Our Lord Vigil
16 8:30am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Junior Luther League: Easter Gathering 10:15am Easter Service of Holy Communion Yellow	17 9am Bread of Life Food Pantry 7pm Faith Formation Committee 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	18 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062 7pm WELCA Project Meeting	19	20 7pm Choir Practice	21	22
23 9am Adult Ed: Ethics 9am Sunday School Special Project Day 10:15am A Cappella Service 11:30am Bread for the World: Offering of Letters 6:30pm Confirmation Class White	24 5pm Bread of Life Food Pantry 7pm Congregation Council 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	25 11am Book Discussion #1 6pm GS Troop 2062 7pm Book Discussion #1	26 7pm Property Committee Meeting	27 7pm Choir Practice	28	29 9am SICM Summit
30 9am Sunday School 10:15am Service 4pm Concert at Good Shepherd 6:30pm Confirmation Class White						

Community Leaders & Contacts

The following contact information is not included in the public version of The Messenger.

Church Officers (Executive Committee)

President: Dave Barnett

Vice-President: Christine DeMento

Secretary: Stacey Hodoroski

Financial Secretary: Penny Incitti

Treasurers: Lisa Mell and Pete Jones

Pastor: Rev. Dustin Wright

Congregation Council

Name	Phone	Email Address	Term	Liaison Committee
Penny Incitti	518.461.5499 (m)	pennyincitti@gmail.com	15-18	Stewardship, Care & Concern, Property
Christine DeMento*	518.569.6002 (m)	cdemento@northway.aaa.com	15-18	Personnel, Mutual Ministry
Pete Jones*	518.867.2489 (m)	poppi62@verizon.net	15-18	Social Action
Lisa Mell	518.355.0942 (m)	mlisa942@gmail.com	16-19	Budget & Finance
Merle Longwood	518.944.4475 (m)	longwood@siena.edu	16-19	Faith Formation
Kiersten Becker*	518.416.5651 (m)	kiersten.becker@guilderlandschools.net	16-19	Kitchen & Outreach
Dave Barnett	518.281.9676 (m)	pdavidbarnett@gmail.com	17-20	Audit
Jackie DeTeso	518.788.8222 (m)	meema8@nycap.rr.com	17-20	Worship & Music
Stacey Hodoroski	518.986.5998 (m)	shodoroski@hotmail.com	17-20	Historian
Rev. Dustin Wright	603.953.8782 (m)	pastor@messiahschenectady.org	N/A	N/A

*Fulfilling partial term.

Staff

Rianne Johnson, Parish Administrator: office@messiahschenectady.org

Doug Chilton, Parish Musician: mrdoug.church@yahoo.com

Nicole Fatato, Sexton: drumrhc19@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs, Organization Chairs and Other Appointed Leaders

Committee / Position	Chair/ Leader(s)	Phone	Email Address
Audit	Neal Fisher	518.355.5193 (h)	Nfisher1@nycap.rr.com
Budget & Finance	Kristie Becker	518.469.4817 (m)	kristiebecker032801@gmail.com
Care & Concern	Betsy Ryan	518.847.6111 (m)	qwlll@yahoo.com
HudMo Conference Assembly Delegates	Rianne Johnson Susie Schaffer	518.925.0819 (m) 518.813.0930 (m)	office@messiahschenectady.org susanschaffer03@icloud.com
Executive	Dave Barnett	518.281.9676 (m)	p davidbarnett@gmail.com
Faith Formation	Jean Jones	518.370.3226 (h)	dodgerjones@yahoo.com
Historian	Susie Schaffer	518.813.0930 (m)	susanschaffer03@icloud.com
Junior Luther League	Kristen Olochnowicz	518.378.0756 (m)	krispeno@gmail.com
Kitchen	Rich Becker Karen Kreischer	518.461.0034 (m) 518.785.9723 (h)	richbecker2340@gmail.com no email
Luther League	Rachel Mathis	518.788.8221 (m)	Racheldmathis@gmail.com
Men's Group	Phil Davis	518.365.2834 (m)	pdavis03@nycap.rr.com
Mutual Ministry	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Outreach	Molly Karrel Tom Collins	518.878.9338 (m) 518.605.1304 (m)	relyeam@hotmail.com collinscomm@gmail.com
Personnel	Pamella Ford	917.414.9790 (h)	pfordny@aol.com
Property	Rich Stigberg Charlie Zitzmann	518.895.8137 (m) 518.366.0150 (m)	dickiestiggs@hotmail.com zitzmann1@aol.com
SICM Delegates	Nancy Stellrecht Betsy Ryan	518.630.5299 (m) 518.847.6111 (m)	nancywestervelt@yahoo.com qwlll@yahoo.com
Social Action	Judy Becker	518.374.5104 (h)	wbecker001@nycap.rr.com
Stewardship	Beth Waugh	518.381.8967 (h)	blwaugh@juno.com
Sunday School Superintendent	Cheryl Borski	518.429.6955 (m)	cborski@transtechsys.com
Upstate NY Synod Assembly Delegates	Rianne Johnson Penny Incitti	518.925.0819 (m) 518.461.5499 (m)	office@messiahschenectady.org pennyincitti@gmail.com
WELCA	Jill Becker	518.357.9875 (m)	jb@hrfmlaw.com
Worship & Music	Pastor Dustin	603.953.8782 (m)	pastor@messiahschenectady.org
Young Adult Group	Rianne Johnson	518.925.0819 (m)	office@messiahschenectady.org

Messiah Lutheran Church
2850 Guilderland Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306

www.messiahschenectady.org

Pastor

Rev. Dustin G. Wright

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 10a -1p

Parish Administrator

Rianne Johnson

Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. 10a - 4p

Council President

Dave Barnett



Messiah Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our purpose is 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 10:15am.