

The Messenger

A monthly publication from our Spirit filled church.

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We are a Spirit filled church following Jesus Christ.

Community Events

Adult Education: Reading the Bible Again for the First Time Continuing Sunday, January 12th at 9:00am

Our current Sunday morning adult education discussion, led by Merle Longwood, is now focusing on Marcus Borg's *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally*. In this book, described by *The Christian Century* as "an accessible book, almost entirely devoid of scholarly jargon but filled with scholarly insight," Borg distinguishing his perspective from fundamentalism.

He encourages his readers to move from precritical naivete (childhood) through critical thinking (adolescence) to postcritical naivete (maturity) in reading the Bible. Using the lenses of "history" and "metaphor," he asks us to hear many of the biblical stories as true stories, even though they may not be factually true, and their truth does not depend on their factuality. Borg suggests that reading the Bible through a combination of history and metaphor will help us appreciate that the Bible is a true story (and a collection of true stories) about the divine-human relationship.

Furthermore, how we read the Bible will have a significant impact on how we understand our lives as people of faith. Copies of the book are available to all participants. The class meets Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 am. All are welcome!

Camp Calumet Sunday Sunday, January 12th at 9:00am

An annual trip to Camp Calumet Lutheran in New Hampshire has become a core part of our youth and family ministries here at Messiah, but there's also many of our newer families who might not yet know what it is or how to

connect. Thus, all our youth and their parent/ guardians are invited to join us for our semi-annual Camp Calumet Sunday! During the Sunday School Hour, we'll play a bunch of awesome camp games led by Pastor Dustin followed by a very festive Calumet style worship service as we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. Finally, after worship, join us for an important coffee hour info and planning session. We very much need more parents to step up in terms of leading fundraisers, helping with rides, etc. this year, so coming to the planning session is essential! If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

**Poor People's Campaign:
People's Needs Not Corporate
Greed!**

**Tuesday, January 14th at
10:00am**

**New York State Capitol in
Albany, NY**

For over a year now Pastor Dustin has been active in the Poor People's Campaign, a faith-inspired movement led by folks affected by poverty that seeks to pick up where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left off in working for social, economic and environmental justice for all. As a new state legislative begins, join Pastor Dustin, other clergy and folks of faith from around our state in asking our elected officials to prioritize addressing the needs of

*On January 5th,
we sent off
Aaron Martin
before he left
for basic
training. We'll
miss you and
all of your
amazing help!*

*We're keeping
you in our
prayers!*

the **50% of New Yorkers living in poverty** and the **over one million New Yorkers living without quality healthcare**. If have any questions or would like to carpool, please speak with Pastor Dustin and RSVP online [here](#).

**Messiah in Your Lifetime: A
Conversation with Consultant
Pete Reuss**

**Wednesday, January 15th at
7:00pm**

Following our last Special Meeting of the Congregation and at the direction of our Congregation Council, Pastor Dustin and our Capital Appeal Task Force have evaluated a number potential fundraising consultants for our capital appeal and have made a final recommendation of Rev. Pete Reuss of Gronlund, Sayther and Brunkow. Pete is a former Director for Evangelical Mission of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and came at the recommendation of a dear friend of Pastor Dustin's from Camp Calumet. Ahead of a



historic vote at our Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 2nd, we wanted the congregation to have the opportunity to meet directly with our fundraising consultant, hear a presentation on the timeline he is recommending and lift up and final questions or concerns. This will likely be the last major opportunity to provide feedback before our Annual Meeting, so please join us!

**Pastor Dustin's Coffee Club
Continuing Thursday, January
16th at 10:00am (and
continuing weekly)**

At Messiah we generally offer two different weekly faith formation opportunities for adults. On Sunday mornings, Dr. Merle Longwood leads a wonderful in depth discussion group, but beginning on Thursday, January 9th at 10:00am in the Parish House, Pastor Dustin will lead a more "entry-level" discussion about the Bible, core Lutheran teachings and other aspects of

our faith. In fact, we'll be using the same curriculum our confirmation students and their parents are experiencing every week, called [colaborate](#). As our confirmation class is right smack in the middle of the Old Testament, we'll start right there along with them and then move into core Lutheran teachings as we journey into the spring. As there are study packets to be ordered, please let Pastor Dustin know if you're interested in attending! Coffee, as always, will be provided!

**Community Meditation Hour
Beginning Thursday, January
16th at 6:00pm (and
continuing weekly)**

Over the past few months we've heard a lot of positive feedback about our twice a month community meditation sessions in the sanctuary, but there has been indeed one criticism as well... scheduling has been difficult, and a couple times guests and members of our congregation have showed up for canceled sessions. Thus, beginning in January, Pastor Dustin will begin "curating" a meditation hour each and every single week on Thursdays at 6:00pm. While some weeks we'll continue using the same wonderful meditation we have for a number of months under lay leadership, other times Pastor Dustin will lead and borrow from various traditions



Many thanks to all who attended our Men's Group Christmas Party! One day we will have more in attendance than WELCA!

and practices he's studied over the years. Think of this as SORT OF a second weekly worship service at Messiah... just mostly grounded in meditative prayer rather than a corporate spoken and sung liturgy. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to lead a session, please speak with Pastor Dustin or our Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair Rianne Johnson.

**All Are Welcome Sunday
Sunday, January 19th at
10:15am**

Every January as part of being a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we recommit to living out our welcome statement adopted back in October 2017, to be a faith community that "welcomes all people into full participation in the body of Christ without regard to race, nationality, ethnicity, ability, marital status, gender identity or sexual orientation." In a time when so many feel judged, hurt and

shunned by churches across the country, it's more important than ever to proclaim that indeed, God loves, welcomes and celebrates everyone, no matter how they identify! Please join us for this very important Sunday in the life of our congregation!

**Messiah in Your Lifetime: A
Conversation about Our Future
Wednesday, January 22nd at
7:00pm**

Since this past spring Messiah has been in a time of in depth study and discernment around a *Strategic Plan for Messiah Lutheran Church: 2020 - 2015*. Especially ahead of a major building campaign, this document is super important, as it helps us articulate and build consensus on WHY God is calling us to improve our facilities and WHAT God is calling us to do in this place. A final draft of our Strategic Plan found [here](#) is complete and this document will have ramifications for years to come, from budgeting priorities to how we deploy staff and



A historical moment: The Breakfast Club watched The Breakfast Club! Looks like our youth as well as our families had a great time.

served at 6:00pm with the

volunteers, so it's imperative everyone has an opportunity to look over this document and understand what sort of community we've discerned God is calling us to be. This will likely be the last major opportunity to provide feedback on our Strategic Plan before our history Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 2nd, so please join us!

suggested donation for dinner being what you would pay to go out to eat. All proceeds with benefit Schenectady Community Ministries. At 7:00pm a community conversation will be held with Dr. Sarah Rogerson, a local Lutheran immigration rights lawyer and friend of Pastor Dustin's from Camp Calumet. RSVP by 1/17 to Kathy at klaws@cgoh.org or at 518.374.8173. Furthermore, if you'd like to make a soup for the event, please speak with Pastor Dustin!

better world. For our second annual recognition of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we'll certainly be doing our small part of bring Christ's church back together by worshiping with our neighbors at Trinity Reformed Church. We'll flip the script from our joint worship service in September, with Pastor Jonathan preaching and Pastor Dustin presiding over a joint Reformed/ Lutheran service. Folks at Trinity are well known for their hospitality, so get excited for a lovely reception after worship as well!

First Communion Class 2020 Beginning Sunday, January 26th at 12:00pm

We'll welcome at least three of our young people to First Communion Class beginning Sunday, January 26th after worship at Holy Trinity using the ELCA's new "A Place for You" curriculum. From Daniel Erlander, the curriculum includes three fun and kid friendly hour-long lessons. The schedule will be as follows with a parent or guardian expected to join their child:

**MLK Soup Shabbat sponsored
by Schenectady Clergy
Against Hate
Friday, January 24th at 5:00pm
Congregation Gates of
Heaven
852 Ashmore Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12309**

Join our friends at Congregation Gates of Heaven and the congregations of Schenectady Clergy Against Hate for an annual MLK Community Soup Shabbat! Worship will begin at 5:00pm followed by dinner with a variety of hearty soups, crusty breads and desserts will be

Sunday of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Sunday, January 26th at
10:30am**

**Trinity Reformed Church
705 Curry Road in Rotterdam,
New York**

For well over a century Christians around the world have spent late January in prayer for the reunification of Christ's Church and that all denominations might work closer together to build a

- Sunday, January 26th after worship: Class #1
- Sunday, February 9th after worship: Class #2
- Sunday, February 16th after worship: Class #3
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 23rd at 10:15a: Rite of First Communion with reception to follow.

Please stand in prayer with our young people during this important step in their life of faith!

Candlemas Service of Holy Communion
Sunday, February 2nd at 10:15am

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, is an ancient Christian tradition that marks the end of the Christmas -Epiphany season (many used to keep up their Christmas trees until this time). Held during the darkest, coldest part of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the tradition of Candlemas includes a blessing of candles to be taken home as reminder of the returning light. Especially as so many of us struggle with seasonal depression this time of year, be sure to join us in a joyful service that looks forward to brighter days and gives thanks for the Light of Christ!

Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 2nd at 10:15am

Super Bowl 54 is rapidly approaching and our confirmation students are once again gearing up to support Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM)'s annual "Souper" Bowl Collection! 100% percent of monies and canned goods raised from this drive will be used to help the SiCM Emergency Food Pantry.

Were you at church on Sunday the 5th? You got to experience one of the best Children's Sermon skits of all time! Thank you Chris, Ibrahim, Cheryl, and Bryan for helping!



Especially given SiCM's recent near unanimous vote to become an interfaith organization, a push that started here at Messiah, it's more important than ever that we support our local coalition of faith communities! Confirmation students will lead a very special children's sermon skit related to hunger and then will be collecting funds in soup pots in the back of the sanctuary before worship and during our Annual Meeting of the Congregation so be sure to contribute to worthy cause! Last year we raised \$363 dollars so if we can up that to \$400 this year, our confirmation students will once again get to dump a big cooler water on the head of everyone's favorite "coach" on life, Pastor Dustin. Please take part in this important way we work with other local faith communities to serve the needy folks throughout Schenectady County!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30am

So without a doubt this will be a major, historic meeting in the life of our congregation, and we really need everyone present! Following worship in addition to electing new council members, receiving our regular reports and adopting an annual budget, our congregation will be called to make major decisions in three areas that will affect Messiah for years to come. First, we'll be adopting the second half our Strategic Plan: 2020 - 2025, that will build on our Vision, Values and Purpose and articulate general long term goals and specific objectives. We'll then be adopting a revised *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of Messiah Lutheran Church* that will reflect the restructuring of our many committees into five core ministry teams that meet briefly together and then break



Our WELCA Christmas Party! Thanks again to all who showed up, we have been victorious for yet another year in attendance.

by purchasing baked goods on February

9th. Bakers are needed for this event. If you have any questions, please speak with Cheryl Borski.

New York State Council of Churches Ecumenical Advocacy Day

Wednesday, February 12th at 9:30am to 4:00pm

Emmanuel Baptist Church Of Albany

275 State Street in Albany, New York

Are you interested in connecting your faith to issues of social justice and building a more equitable society? Join people of faith across New York State, representatives of the New York State Council of Churches and other secular and religious partners in Albany this February! We will begin the daylong event with spiritual grounding, followed by basic advocacy training, workshops on issues including care for creation, immigration, criminal justice reform and poverty alleviation and then finally visits

to the offices of our elected officials. The cost of the event including lunch and refreshments is \$30.00 and Messiah can help defer costs for our members if needed. To register simply go to the New York State Council of Churches website, click [here](#) or speak with Pastor Dustin.

2020 Confirmation Retreat Winter Weekend

Friday, February 14th at 8:00pm - Sunday, February 16th at 12pm

Join middle school Lutheran youth from across the Hudson Mohawk Conference for an awesome winter weekend of fun and faith at Camp Fowler! Pastor Dustin and Kristen Olochnowicz are planning the schedule with Pastor Deron from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church planning the food! Activities will include fun outdoor activities like snowshoeing, sledding, a service project and more! Cost is now only \$25 per youth with scholarships available! All confirmation students are strongly encouraged to attend... it's a key part of our confirmation program to spend a weekend together every year! All RSVPs are due by January 20th. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Dustin Wright at pastor@messiahschenectady.org.

out into small groups. Finally, and perhaps most notably, we'll discuss (and perhaps vote) on a set of proposed resolutions to move us towards a final plan to make our building accessible and welcoming to all. Options range from conducting a more limited campaign than the \$500K project proposed by our architect this past month to moving our primary worship space to Trinity Reformed's already accessible building and bunch of options in between. After the meeting a light brunch will take place in the Fellowship Hall with food provided by our Congregation Council, so please RSVP on the narthex bulletin board! If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin or President Pete Jones.

Help a Homeless Pet Bake Sale Sunday, February 9th after worship

Please help the Sunday School program raise money for the Schoharie Shelter and Whiskers

WELCA Program Meeting: Joan Nicole Prince Home
Tuesday, February 18th at 7:00pm

Join the women of Messiah as they welcome representatives from the Joan Nicole Prince Home, a local nonprofit home that is dedicated to providing a safe, comfortable, caring residence for terminally ill patients in need of a home during their final days. From discussing how the home operates, to how individuals can help out, navigating loss, and how to support a terminally ill loved one, this night is an important aspect of Messiah's renewed focus on supporting the emotional and spiritual needs of Messiah's members and their families. Please join us – this event is open to all, not just women!

Sunday of the Transfiguration
Sunday, February 23rd at 10:15am

As has become a tradition at Messiah, we spend Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before Lent, celebrating and supporting our young people who are taking their First Communion. Following worship will be a very special reception and be sure pray for our young people as they prepare for this important day in their life of faith!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 25th from 5:00 - 7:00pm

Messiah will once again continue one of our most

cherished traditions, the Shrove Tuesday Eve Pancake Supper. Join us for the traditional celebratory meal of pancakes and sausages cooked up by our awesome Kitchen Committee! Check out the bulletin board in the narthex to sign-up or sign up online on Realm and please bring pancake mix, syrup or pre-cooked sausage links if you're able. Whatever is leftover will be contributed to our Bread of Life Food Pantry. As part of our annual tradition, Pastor Dustin will burn last year's palms from Palm Sunday to prepare ashes for the following day at about 7:00pm outside by the fire pit, and he'd love for you to join him as we prepare for the Lenten fast.

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 26th
7:30am - 11:00am at the Jay Street Pedestrian Mall
12:00pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7:00pm at Messiah Lutheran Church

Pastor Dustin, Pastor Deron (and now Pastor Dan from Our Redeemer!) will once again be down at the Jay Street Pedestrian Mall in Schenectady giving out ashes and a short blessing for folks on their way to work. We'll also hold our joint noontime service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 547 Saratoga Rd, Schenectady, NY 12302 with Pastor Dustin preaching and Pastor Deron presiding. A simple lunch of soup and bread hosted by the people of Good Shepherd will follow. Our

primary Ash Wednesday Vespers service will take place at 7:00pm back at Messiah. Ash Wednesday is one of the best opportunities of the year to get out there and share the good news of Christ, so be sure to share our Ashes to Go and our Ash Wednesday Vespers events on Facebook with friends, neighbors and other loved ones!

The Vagina Monologues at Proctors
Friday, February 28th at 7:00pm
Proctors Theatre
432 State Street in Schenectady, New York

We know, we know... it's hard to get past the name! That said, since it debuted on Broadway over twenty-two years ago, the Vagina Monologues have been raising awareness about important topics that affect women everywhere, from body image issues, sexual harassment, reproductive issues and more. Individual stories are told by a cast that will include many well-known faces from across the Capital Region and all proceeds from the event will benefit the YWCA of Northeastern New York, an organization in Schenectady that serves nearly 4,000 women and families each year with comprehensive support services which include a domestic violence hotline, shelter, counseling, advocacy, and more! While this event is sponsored by Messiah's Young Adult Group, all are invited to attend. Tickets are \$35 each

but the cost can be subsidized if needed. Tickets are general admission and can be purchased at proctors.org. Just let Pastor Dustin know to look for you there!

News You Can Use!

Volunteers Needed!!

Golly, in our rapidly growing congregation, we're always in need of all sorts of help to support our many new and existing ministries. If you'd like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Dustin! Here's just a few keys areas where assistance is needed.

- Cradle Roll/ Nursery Ministry Chair
- Social Justice Ministry Chair
- Arts & Culture Ministry Chair
- Nursery Leaders
- Fellowship Ministry Team Coordinator
- Tech Czar Worship Leaders
- Snow Shovelers
- Personnel Ministry Members
- Communications Ministry Members

Social Action Update

The Help Portrait Project in December was very successful. About 60 families came through and had over 100 family portraits taken. While they were waiting for their portraits to print out they participated in making crafts, decorating cookies, and listening to stories read by our very own Bill Becker. Santa himself was also present to add to the festivities.

About 50 or so volunteers took part to make the event

successful. Most were members of Messiah but we also had members of ADK and volunteer photographers as well.

We look forward to continuing this project in early December, 2020.

On Saturday, January 4, 2020, 11 volunteers sorted frozen food at the Regional Food Bank. Of the 11, 4 had participated in the project before and the other 7 had not. We worked very well together as a team and were able to sort and process about 6 large boxes of donated food. Our next event will be in April. Watch for information on that.

Randi Dunda-Martin has agreed to coordinate the CROP Walk this coming May so look for information on that event in upcoming months.

Mission Support Ministry (formerly Stewardship) Update

With a new meeting structure in place our committee will meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month. The 2020 schedule is March 17, June 16, September 15 and December 8. The focus of our committee for the coming year will be how to best support the Capital Campaign, if approved at the annual meeting. Anyone interested in finding out more about this committee is invited to join us on March 17.

Card Ministry

Betsy continues to send out cards to members for birthdays and other life passages and events. In December, 11 cards have been sent. Overall, 116 cards have been sent in 2019!

Volunteer Opportunities with The Community Hospice

We are looking for more wonderful volunteers to join our team! Community Hospice Volunteers make friendly visits to provide companionship and support for Hospice patients and their families in their homes and at nursing homes. It is truly a rewarding and fulfilling experience! To learn more and to request an application, contact Cheryl Gerstler, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for Schenectady County, at 518-724-0282 or Cheryl.Gerstler@sphp.com. Our next New Volunteer Training begins in February.

Bottles and Cans

Thank you to everyone who brings in their cans and bottles. We just have one request. Please rinse out your beer cans and bottles. That will keep the vestibule from smelling like a brewery. Thank you so much!

Thank You's

Dear siblings in Christ, My gosh, as always, I couldn't be more thankful for the many and wonderful gifts you gave me and the one Willard E. Bear for Christmas this year, including my Christmas bonus. The stole WELCA gave me for

what I'll be considering my stole for the Season of Epiphany was absolutely BEAUTIFUL. I received gifts cards and Christmas ornaments and soup coozies and SO MANY STAR WARS THINGS! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Well beyond stuff, thank you so much for the many ways you've supported our ministries here at Messiah in 2019, and I have no doubt we have a bring year ahead of us in 2020. God's peace,
Pastor Dustin

A huge THANK YOU to all who participated in our "Reverse Advent Project". We receive a wonderful quantity of food. We know now, that we will have plenty for the opening of our 3rd day of the pantry. Thanks so much again. Reminder: there is a Food Pantry meeting Tuesday, Jan 14th at 7pm. It is open to all who are interested in volunteering or just want to see what it is all about.

Ministry Team Meetings

Social Action Ministry Team Meeting Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00pm

The Social Action Ministry will meet on Tuesday, January 14th from 7-9 PM, utilizing the new structure of fewer meetings. This ministry will consist of members of the Creation Care Ministry, the Bread of Life Community Center Ministry, the

Social Justice Ministry and the Community Service Ministry. I expect that the first part of the meeting we will discuss Social Action and the upcoming events. The latter part of the meeting we will break up into individual ministries to conduct those meetings.

Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting Monday, February 3rd at 7:00pm

What's on the agenda? A lot, like always! We'll begin our meeting with some prayerful discernment and jump into business: evaluating numerous services that have happened throughout January, talking about First Communion and Lent, many baptisms in the horizon, hymnals, and more! Our ministry team is always looking for more people – if you're interested or have something you'd like us to talk about, please speak with our ministry chair, Rianne Johnson.

Faith Formation Ministry Team Meeting Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00pm

Gosh we have a lot to discuss... from our efforts to support our high school youth to our first ever confirmation winter retreat weekend to our adult education opportunities and more! If you interested in taking part or have something you need discussed, please speak with Ministry Team Coordinator Ibrahím Pedriñán.

Interested in E-Giving rather than envelopes?

Use Tithe.ly on our Messiah's website!

Step 1:

<http://www.messiahschenectady.org>

Step 2: Click on "Contribute to our Ministries"



Step 3: Click on "Give" in the green box

Step 4: Fill out information

Please note: A choice is at bottom of form for Credit card or bank account.

Step 5: Choose automatic giving and then a drop-down menu will appear below the button.

Select: Every Week
Every 2 weeks
Every month
1st and 15th monthly

Please be aware:

A service charge is taken from each donation.

Your statement will reflect your donation minus this charge.

Our old service billed the church once a month – Tithe.ly is less expensive

Any questions email Penny Incitti -

pennyincitti@gmail.com

Ministers of the Month: Kathy & Phil Bazicki

Phil and Kathy became members of the Messiah Lutheran church in the fall of 2017. Shortly after, Phil volunteered to help the church accountant reconcile the banks financial statements with the church's records. This led to Phil's appointment to the church council. Kathy volunteers as a Messiah bread baker and works in Messiahs food pantry. They also are volunteers as greeters and ushers. Phil and Kathy were married in 1987 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Rotterdam, NY. In that same year, they built a house in Guilderland and quit smoking. Phil enjoys DIY home improvement projects and golf. Kathy loves her gardens, enjoys feeding and watching the birds, and enjoys cooking. They both love traveling, playing cards and dominoes with family and friends. Congratulations, Phil and Kathy, on being our ministers of the month!



May the force be with you! Err... peace! May the peace be with you! Pastor Dustin got a TON of Star Wars stuff for Christmas and is very, very, thankful.

The Worship & Music committee extends a huge THANK YOU to all who helped green and de-green the church! Putting Christmas decorations away surely doesn't seem like much fun, but many hands make light work!



We could thank everybody for ages... but thank you as well to all who had some sort of responsibility during our Christmas Eve services. Without you, worship would be very different (and a lot more difficult.) Worship assistants, soloists, decorators, bakers, volunteers, the list goes on! Thank you, thank you,





PASTOR'S LETTER: REV. DUSTIN G. WRIGHT

Dear siblings in Christ,

In short, I'll forever remember this past week as both one of the best but also most difficult weeks of my professional life thus far. This past Tuesday's, SiCM Assembly, delegates voted near unanimously for love and solidarity by opening SiCM's doors to congregations of non-Christian faiths. Already a major area synagogue and an environmentalist druid group has expressed interest in joining, with many more synagogues, mosques, temples and other faith communities on the way. During a time of such division, this initiative started here at Messiah way back on Easter Sunday. It started with you!

This past Wednesday proved a bit more complicated. On Wednesday morning I found out our final master plan for making our facilities fully accessible came over at twice the cost of what we were expecting, over \$500,000. This was indeed heartbreaking, but what I saw next gave me great hope. Our first community conversation with our architect went extremely well under far less than ideal conditions, with folks remaining respectful of each other's opinions, asking good questions, and open to everything from doing a more limited campaign to moving our primary church facilities to our friends at Trinity Reformed's already accessible building. And after that meeting, my gosh, we stood up, many of us held hands, and said the Lord's Prayer together in way more powerful than I've ever experienced before... one in purpose, one in prayer, looking to where God is leading us.

If we can maintain that sense of prayerful solidarity, guided by the Spirit in the months ahead, my gosh, we'll move forward through this process stronger than ever.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dustin G. Wright".

Pastor Dustin



PRESIDING BISHOP'S LETTER: BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Father's Day is in June. Let me tell you a little bit about my dad. His name was William Frederick Eaton. He was born in 1924 to an Irish Catholic father and a German Lutheran mother. (There were always going to be potatoes and cabbage in my future.) My father was a child of the Depression. Like thousands of his generation, he enlisted in the army during World War II. An Army Air Corps officer at age 20, he flew B-24s and served in North Africa and Italy.

My father, who had an amazing sense of humor, told my brothers and me stories about his time in the army—about the training, the friends he made and the not-quite-regulation antics they pulled. These were 20-year-olds, after all. Only once did he speak about an actual combat operation, and then only briefly. War is about killing, and those we send to serve carry that with them for the rest of their lives. After the war and newly married, my father and mother built a life together. They bought their first house. My father went to night school and earned his bachelor's degree. One of my fondest childhood memories was when my mother allowed me to stay up late so I could see my dad when he came home from night school. He was the first in his family to graduate from college. My father was a man of integrity and courage. He grew up in a working-class family, and he worked hard for everything he earned. He served his country; loved my mother, brothers and me; raised a family; served his church; and was involved in the community.

June is also the month of Juneteenth, the celebration of the emancipation and the end of slavery in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, that the news reached Texas, the last state that had slaves. Finally, at least officially, freedom was granted to all. We know that African descent people took their place in local, state and national leadership and elected positions, including Congress. This was a time of great hope and possibility for our country as former slaves became citizens and worked alongside European descent citizens to rebuild the nation. But it was short-lived.

Almost immediately laws were put in place that restricted African Americans' access to economic advancement, voting, education and property ownership. We know the dreadful history of the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the horror of lynching. My father's family had only arrived in 1863. My mother's family would not come to America for another half century. Here is where my father's story and that of the not-yet-realized emancipation of African American people intersect. After World War II our government enacted the GI Bill that made benefits like college tuition and low-interest home loans available for veterans. My father's bomb group had a fighter escort squadron. It was the job of these men to protect pilots like my dad. They were the Tuskegee Airmen, the Red Tails. They were also brave men who served our country and, after the war, came home to start families and build a life. They served in the same war, wore the same uniform and flew the same missions, but they were barred in practice from the benefits of the GI Bill because they were African American. This is white privilege. It doesn't diminish my father's courage and service. It doesn't mean that white people don't sacrifice and work hard. It does mean that the system favors white people. We didn't create this—we inherited it.

Now that we know about it, we have to do something about it. Americans love fair play. We've been taught that everyone should have an even chance. Now we know the truth. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). It might hurt, but it brings liberation. We are not free until all of us are free.

Prayer List

Please pray for: Our members: Bill Becker, Lore Ellis, Denise Larrabee, Jacob Veerasammy **Our friends and family:** Rod Bascom, Bob & Bev Bloomquist, Bill Brust, Chris Canova, Howie Cohn, Ginny Diegel, Wanda Eaker, Bonnie Enke, Samantha Gainsworth, Sabrina Girard, Margit LaForest, Willy Larson, Omar Martin, Cheri McGinty, Sr. Monica McFee, Michael O'Neill, Alyssa Parrino, Clark Russell, Christine Simeone, Wayne Stewart, Jason Townsend, Bob Trachtenberg, Carol White **Those who serve:** Daniel Davis, Aaron Martin

If you have a friend or loved one you would like to add/remove on our prayer list, please email Rianne at office@messiahschenectady.org with the reason (will be confidential) 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. Thanks!

January Birthdays

Amanda Stigberg January 4th
 Chris DeTeso January 8th
 Chip Crowther January 9th
 Linda Buehler January 16th
 Dick Gresham January 18th
 Rebecca Davis January 18th
 Karen Keenan January 21st
 Ron Force January 24th
 Neal Fisher January 25th
 Joyce Gresham January 26th
 Richard Keenan January 31st
 Nathaniel Murray January 31st

January Anniversaries

Pete & Jean Jones January 22nd

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

Readings for January

January 12th

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

January 19th

Isaiah 49:1-7
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42

January 26th

Isaiah 9:1-4
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23

February 2nd

Micah 6:1-8
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

February 9th

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
 Matthew 5:13-20

February 16th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

Worship Assistants for January 12th – February 16th

	Jan. 12 th	Jan. 19 th	Jan. 26 th	Feb. 2 nd	Feb. 9 th	Feb. 16 th
Assisting Minister	Jesse Mathis	Abriel McGuire		Pamella Ford	Rachel Mathis	Kristen O.
Acolyte	Ella Roether	Sarah O.		Liam Tedford	Lilianna S.	Izzy Paige
Crucifer	Austin Karrel	Tyler Jones		Ella Roether	Austin Karrel	Grace O.
Lector	Rachel Mathis	Linda Klein		Jackie DeTeso	Margaret G.	Barb Hallett
Ushers	Vanessa & Atticus	Elberta L. Betsy Sweet		Tom Chilton Phil Davis	Randi & Rene Dunda-Martin	Charlie Zitzmann Pamella Ford
Greeters	Allison Bode Nancy S.	Beth Waugh Barb S.		Kristie Becker Marilyn Barnett	Kathy & Phil Bazicki	Allison Bode Nancy S.
Altar Guild	Joyce Gresham, Carly DiSanto, Abriel McGuire	Jill Becker, Linda Klein, Grace Olochnowicz		Dotty Diegel, Barb Hallett, Sarah Olochnowicz	Pamella Ford, Ella Roether	Rene & Randi Dunda-Martin
Bread Baker	Molly Karrel					
Nursery	Molly Karrel Sue Collins	Faleema V. Hannah B.		Melissa & Amaya DiGiovanni	Matt Kane Hannah C.	Molly Karrel Abriel McGuire
Tech Czar	Logan Karrel	Rianne Johnson		Marcus DiGiovanni	Nathaniel M.	Rianne Johnson

January 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					10 Newsletter Released!	11
12 9am Education Hour 10:15am Calumet Sunday 11:30am Coffeehour 12pm Calumet Planning 6pm Confirmation Class White	13 7pm Council Mtg.	14 7pm Social Action Mtg.	15 7pm Congregation Conversation	16 Annual Report Released 10am Coffee Club 6pm Community Meditation Hour 7pm Choir	17	18
19 9am Education Hour 10:15am All Are Welcome Sunday 11:30am Coffeehour 6pm Confirmation Class Green	20 9am Food Pantry 7pm Monday Crafters	21	22 7pm Congregation Council	23 10am Coffee Club 6pm Community Meditation Hour 7pm Choir	24 5pm SCAH Soup Shabbat	25 9am Food Pantry
26 9am Education Hour 10:30am Christian Unity Worship at Trinity 12pm First Communion Class 6pm Confirmation Class	27 5pm Food Pantry	28	29	30 10am Coffee Club 6pm Community Meditation Hour 7pm Choir	31	

Community Leaders & Contacts

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

Church Officers (Executive Committee)

President: Pete Jones

Vice President: Jackie DeTeso

Secretary: Stacey Hodoroski

Financial Secretary: Penny Incitti

Treasurer: Rene Dunda-Martin and Phil Bazicki assisting

Congregation Council

Name	Phone	Email Address	Term	Liaison Ministry Team
Dave Barnett	518.281.9676 (m)	p davidbarnett@gmail.com	17-20	Audit, Men's Group, Faith Formation
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, Youth Ministry, Personnel, Mutual Ministry
Suzanne Collins	518.605.2171 (m)	scollins@nycap.rr.com	18-21	Communications
Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (m)	jonesp714@gmail.com	18-21	Care & Concern, Social Action, Food Pantry
Ann Marie Gray	518.577.0812 (m)	runnergirl6221@gmail.com	18-21	WELCA, Stewardship, Creation Care
Steve Friebel	518.451.0628 (m)	sfbandit33@gmail.com	19-22	Kitchen, Property
René Dunda-Martin	607.228.7771 (m)	drne51@yahoo.com	19-22	Young Adult Group
Phil Bazicki	518.355.0490 (m)	pcbkm@earthlink.net	19-22	Budget & Finance
Dustin Wright	603.953.8782 (m)	pastor@messiahschenectady.org	N/A	

Staff

Rianne Johnson, Parish Administrator: office@messiahschenectady.org

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

Nicole Hamilton, Sexton: drumrhcic19@yahoo.com

Ministry Team Chairs, Organization Chairs and Other Appointed Leaders

Ministry / 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
Bread of Life Food Pantry	Judy Becker Joyce Gresham	518.419.2175 (m) 518.258.0574 (m)	wbecker001@nycap.rr.com rjg301@aol.com
Care & Concern	Barb Hallett	518.356.3491 (h)	squeaky7762@aol.com
Creation Care	Kären Telfeyan	716.307.3440 (m)	karen.telfeyan@gmail.com
HudMo Conference Assembly Delegates	Rianne Johnson Ibrahím Pedriñán	518.925.0819 (m) 518.417.4999 (m)	office@messiahschenectady.org ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.com
Executive	Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (m)	jonesp714@gmail.com
Faith Formation	Ibrahím Pedriñán	518.417.4999 (m)	ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.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
Men's Group	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Mutual Ministry	Christine DeMento	518.569.6002 (m)	cdemento@northway.aaa.com
Nominating	Charlie Zitzmann	518.366.0150 (m)	zitzmann1@aol.com
Communications	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
SafeChurch Team	Pamella Ford Ernie Incitti	917.414.9790 (h) 518.356.2460 (h)	pfordny@aol.com ernieincitti@gmail.com
SICM Delegates	Nancy Stellrecht Betsy Ryan	518.630.5299 (m) 518.847.6111 (m)	nancywestervelt@yahoo.com qwilll@yahoo.com
Social Action	Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (m)	jonesp714@gmail.com
Stewardship	Penny Incitti	518.461.5499 (m)	pennyincitti@gmail.com
Sunday School Superintendent	Cheryl Borski	518.429.6955 (m)	cborski@transtechsys.com
Upstate NY Synod Assembly Delegates	Merle Longwood Rianne Johnson	518.944.4475 (m) 518.925.0819 (m)	longwood@siena.edu office@messiahschenectady.org
WELCA	Jill Becker	518.357.9875 (m)	jb@hrfmlaw.com
Worship & Music	Rianne Johnson	518.925.0819 (m)	office@messiahschenectady.org
Young Adult Group	Pastor Dustin	603.953.8782 (m)	pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Messiah Lutheran Church
2850 Guilderland Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306

www.messiahschenectady.org

Pastor

Rev. Dustin G. Wright

Parish Administrator

Rianne Johnson

Office Hours:

Tues. & Thurs. 4pm-7pm

Wed. 9am-5pm

(pending change after
2/2/20)

Council President

Pete Jones



Messiah Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our purpose is to be a Spirit filled congregation grounded in Jesus Christ, nourishing our local community in body, mind and soul.

Saved by grace, renewed by worship and set free by the love of God, we collaborate with like-minded individuals and organizations to feed the hungry, bridge divides and build a sustainable neighborhood in Rotterdam, Schenectady and the wider Capital Region of New York.

Please join us for Sunday Worship at 10:15am