

# 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

**Finding the Divine Through Music:  
A Lenten Journey with Douglas J.  
Chilton**

**Continuing Wednesday, March  
11th from 6:30 - 7:30pm**

Oftentimes through learning about the faiths of others, we can learn even more about our own. In this spirit our one and only Minister of Music will lead us through a magnum opus of a Lenten journey entitled *Finding the Divine through Music*. After a brief opening centering Mr. Doug will play music and lead us through conversation based on the faiths and composers outlined below. Local clergy from the faiths being discussed may be joining us as well.

**March 11th | Music from the Top of the World:** The Gyuto monks are known for their tradition of overtone singing, also described as "chordal chanting". The monks are part of an order known as The Gelug, which is the newest of the schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

**March 18th | Ravi Shankar:** Ravi Shankar is the Master of Indian Classical Music, which is a part of the Hindu tradition. Hindustani classical music is the art music of northern regions of the Indian subcontinent. Its origins date from the 12th century CE.

**March 25th | Chichester Psalms:** Composer, conductor and performer Leonard Bernstein, the son of Ukrainian Jewish parents, explores the book of Psalms in his Chichester Psalms. The text was arranged by the

composer from the original Hebrew. The piece uses Psalms 100, 108, 2, 23, 131, and 133.

**April 1st | Johann Sebastian Bach:** J.S. Bach was the primary developer of Western music as we know it. Bach devoted nearly his entire professional musical life to service in the Lutheran Church.

**Pastor Dustin's Coffee Club  
Continuing Thursday, March 12th  
at 11:00am**

On Thursdays now at 11:00am, Pastor Dustin leads an "entry-level" discussion about the Bible, core Lutheran teachings and other aspects of our faith. We use the same curriculum our confirmation students and their parents are experiencing every week, called [colaborate](#). All this spring we'll be talking about Lutheran history and Luther's Catechism's

teachings on the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and more! Coffee, as always, will be provided! Join us for this great time of weekly fellowship and learning together!

**Over 55 Gang Planning Luncheon  
Thursday, March 12th at 1:00pm**

Please join our Over 55 Gang meeting in the Fellowship Hall! A lunch of pizza and salad will be provided as we plan future outings and events. For more information, please contact Barb Hallett.

**Community Meditation Hour  
Continuing Thursday, March 12th  
at 6:00pm**

This spring we'll continue 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 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 would like to lead a session, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board!

**Schenectady NAACP Meeting  
Thursday, March 12th at 6:30pm  
State Street Presbyterian Church  
5 Catherine Street, Schenectady,  
New York**

As part of Messiah's ongoing commitment toward working for racial justice and reconciliation, our Social Justice Committee has discussed wanting to begin regularly attending our new local NAACP Chapter's monthly meetings on the second Thursday

*Notice  
anything  
different in  
the pews?  
We recently  
blessed our  
new hymnals  
that have  
been  
dedicated in  
memory/hon  
or of loved  
ones.*



of each month. As this conflicts with both choir and our weekly community meditation however we'd love to find a few social justice minded members who would begin to like regularly attending along with Pastor Dustin when he's able! If you're interested or have any questions please speak with Pastor Dustin.

**Community Bingo Night with  
Sister Robert Ann**

**Saturday, March 14th at 6:30pm**

For some reason she just keeps coming back! Rotterdam's favorite "fantastic monastic," the acclaimed "Sister" Robert Ann, will be joining us again at Messiah for our annual Community Bingo Night! All our Calumet kids will be working hard to provide everyone with some awesome hospitality with a dessert bar and epic prizes! A free will offering will be taken to benefit our roughly thirteen kiddos attending Camp Calumet Lutheran this summer. No need to sign up... all in the community are welcome! That said, bakers are needed so please sign up on the narthex bulletin board if you're able!

**Adult Education Course:  
Reclaiming Jesus  
Continuing Sunday, March 15th  
at 9:00am**

In a time of deep divisions in the American body politic, our Adult Education Sunday morning class will study the most recent book, *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, by Jim Wallis, globally respected writer, teacher, preacher, and justice advocate. In this book, Wallis writes: "Don't go right, don't go left, go deeper." Building on the "Reclaiming Jesus" Declaration that Wallis, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, and twenty-one other "church elders" from diverse backgrounds released to the public in May 2018—to which 5 million people responded—the author challenges us to explore how a crisis of moral conscience, perhaps compounded by a constitutional crisis, may require a fresh confession of faith. Copies of the book will be available to class participants. Everyone is welcome to jump in at any time into these discussions led by Merle Longwood through the spring!



We're  
always,  
always  
so  
thankful  
for the  
help of  
our  
kitchen  
crew on  
Shrove  
Tuesday!  
What a  
great  
time.

which prevent your neighborhood and region from welcoming people of all incomes and races and helping them to live, work and participate in your local economy.

Renovate and improve your property to further your mission.

Show a variety of real-life examples of congregations who have found creative ways to extend their mission and redevelop their property for the benefit of the community while improving space for fellowship and worship. Many have also built affordable housing, created arts and community spaces, planted community gardens and developed schools and educational programs.

Equip you with practical tools that will enable your congregation to take important new steps in following the biblical command to love our neighbors—and our neighborhood.

*Messiah and Trinity Reformed's properties will be included in a case study presented at this conference, so it's important a number of our folks attend! Messiah's leadership training budget line will cover attendance costs for our team, so please contact Pastor Dustin if you'd like to attend by March 10th!*

**Hudson Mohawk Conference  
Youth Lock-in featuring Vicar  
Mbongeni Dube**

**Saturday, March 21st at 7:00pm -  
Sunday, March 22nd at 8:30am  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
547 Saratoga Road in Glenville,  
New York**

For months now, Pastor Dustin, Kristen Olochnowicz, Rachel Mathis, Tammi Crowther and a

**Addicted: A Lenten Sermon Series  
on the Twelve Steps  
Continuing Sunday, March 15th  
at 10:15am**

While we might not always talk about it publicly, a significant portion of folks at Messiah have either family members who have faced alcohol or drug addiction or are working at recovery themselves. And from Martin Luther's perspective, the heart of sin is addiction to our own egos and hangups, something he called being "curved in on our ourselves." With these facts in mind, Pastor Dustin has spent some time this winter studying the spirituality of twelve step programs, namely through the fantastic work *Breathing Under Water* by Richard Rohr, and he'll be leading a sermon series throughout the Lenten season based on the twelve steps. Grounded in the four Lenten practices of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, the beautiful music of Marty Haugen's *Unfailing Light* liturgy and the practice of our Lenten prayer tree, we'll be taking some time collectively this Lent to stand together as we turn way from our

addiction to ourselves towards Christ reflected in the face of our neighbors.

**"Who Is My Neighbor?"  
Conference**

**Tuesday, March 17th from 9:00am  
- 4:00pm**

**Presbyterian New England  
Congregational Church  
24 Circular Street in Saratoga  
Springs, New York**

Join the New York State Council of Churches, Goldstein Hall Attorneys at Law, Pace University Land Use Law Center, American Institute of Architects Westchester Hudson Valley, New York State Association for Affordable Housing, Upper New York Conference United Methodist Church, Community Preservation Corporation and other partners for a day of conversation with colleagues and experts that will inspire you to:

Think in new ways about how congregations can reach out to their communities and to revitalize.

Draw on the theological riches of your tradition to address attitudinal and legal barriers

number of other Messiah parents have been in conversation with one another and their counterparts at other area Lutheran congregations about the future of Lutheran youth ministry throughout the Greater Capital Region and after a wildly successful winter retreat for confirmation and post-confirmation youth this February, we decided to host quarterly events at all our respective congregations. The first of these events will be for youth of confirmation age and up at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Glenville! Confirmation and post-confirmation youth will have some combined time and some separate time throughout an evening that will include a pizza dinner, air hockey, foosball, games and just fun time to get to know one another. Mbongeni Dube, Good Shepherd's young vicar from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe will talk about what Lutheran faith looks like in his own country and we'll also discuss with the upcoming 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering as well. *The cost of the event is \$5 for all Messiah youth and a permission slip needs to be signed by March 15th.* Please speak with Pastor Dustin if you have any questions!

**"Dear Church" Monthly Book Club  
Thursday, March 24th at 11:00am**

Author Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ours). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's

*Ibrahim,  
Vicar  
Mbongeni  
Dube, and  
Pastor  
Deron on  
Ash  
Wednesday*



lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the future of our denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. Dear Church rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

A few copies are available but attendees are encouraged to order their own books. Book Club will now be led next door to church at the Parish House! If you have any questions, please speak with Faith Formation Chair Ibrahim Pedriñan!

**SICM Empty Bowl Fundraiser  
Sunday, March 29th from 2:00 -  
4:00pm  
Double Tree Hotel by Hilton  
100 Nott Street in Schenectady,  
New York**

Join Pastor Dustin, fantastic chiefs and local leaders from across Schenectady County for an afternoon of delicious soups, voting for your favorite chef, pick a prize raffle, fellowship and most importantly, supporting our collective efforts with folks of all faiths to feed the hungry! Tickets are \$35, and you can either buy a ticket online [here](#) or speak with Nancy Stellrecht or Betsy Ryan. You'll even get to take home an awesome homemade bowl!

**Pippin Musical at Mohon  
Sunday, March 29th at 2:00pm**

Come see two of Messiah's very own performers in their school play the last weekend in March. Jesse Mathis and Olivia Tedford will be performing in Mohonasen High School's production of Pippin March 27th through March 29th. Anyone interested in seeing the show on **Sunday, March 29th** at

2:00 pm, we will be getting presale tickets so we can sit together as a group. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or see Rachel Mathis by March 22nd. Please prepay-tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

**Newsletter Articles Due!  
Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

As a reminder, newsletter articles for our April Messenger are due on **Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** with a projected release date of Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>! A reminder email will be sent out a week beforehand, and, a new implementation – we may start doing text reminders! It is of utmost importance that this newsletter is released on time as we finalize Holy Week details, Rianne goes on a retreat, and Pastor Dustin prepares for a crazy week ahead!

**Palm Sunday Service of Holy Communion**

**Sunday, April 5th at 10:15am**

On this, the final Sunday in Lent, our kids will lead us through Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem shortly before he was betrayed. We'll bless and give out palms, a sign of new life for the year ahead. The tone of the service then quickly turns towards a dramatic presentation of Saint Matthew's account of Jesus' passion and death organized by noted local director Rachel "Direct Message" DeTeso-Mathis. Join us as we experience the central story of our faith as we begin Holy Week!

Come see what all the fun is about at Coffee Club on Thursdays at 11am! Pictured: Carly, Nancy, Ibrahim, Rianne,, Randi



**Holy Week Compline  
Sunday, April 5th - Wednesday,  
April 8th at 6:30pm**

It's become a cherished annual tradition at Messiah to use Saint Benedict's ancient Liturgy of the Hours to mark the first evenings of Holy Week. Compline, an evening chanted service, will center around the Psalms and the appointed gospel stories for Sunday through Wednesday of Holy Week, which include Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem in Matthew 21:1-11, Mary anointing the feet of Jesus in John 12:1-11, Jesus predicting his death in John 12:20-36 and the story of Jesus' betrayal in John 13:21-32. As a special new addition to our Holy Week services, Palm Sunday Compline will be led almost entirely by our confirmation class students. Come join us in the spiritual practice of Holy Week!

**Holy Week Matins  
Monday, April 6th - Friday, April  
10th at 8:00am**

During Holy Week this year we'll once again invite members of our congregation and our neighbors alike to experience the Liturgy of Hours through two brief services at the opening and

closing of the day: Matins & Compline. Based on earliest of Christian practices (see Acts 10), the Liturgy of the Hours was first formalized by Saint Benedict in the early 500s CE. Grounded in the Psalms and giving thanks for the light of a new day, our early morning Matins contemplative services will be very brief in length (20 minutes tops) of spoken prayer and meditation in order to allow folks to get to work on time. Especially if you can't make it out for evening services, this is a great way to dive deeper into Holy Week!

**Chrism Mass  
Wednesday, April 8th at 10:00am  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
547 Saratoga Road in Glenville,  
New York**

What's Chrism Mass you might ask? It's an annual Holy Week tradition where the Bishop John Macholz visits, blessing anointing oils to be used in the coming year renews the ordination vows of all rostered deacons and pastors. It also affords us a time of prayer and collegial worship as we continue through the rigors of Holy Week. If you'd like to



*Mr. Doug held a fantastic first Lenten Worship session! Please check out our next one – Wednesdays at 6:30pm!*

opportunity to build some community! For more information, please see Kristen Olochnowicz.

**The Great Vigil of Easter  
Saturday, April 12th 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, our renewed in our baptismal promises, 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! In addition to Pastor Deron Milleville joining us as a cantor and Pastor John Califano co-presiding, as a new addition this year Good Shepherd's vicar from Zimbabwe, Mbongeni Dube, will join us to share one of the traditional vigil readings in his native language. Lutherans from throughout the Hudson Mohawk Conference will be invited to join us as well, so it should be quite the festive evening! As there's at least twenty leadership roles we need volunteers for on this night alone, please speak with Pastor Dustin if you'd like to take part asap!

spend some time learning about what rostered ministry in the ELCA is all about, this is a great event to be a part of! Please join us in supporting Pastor Dustin in the renewal of his ordination vows for a busy year ahead! A light lunch will be served following the worship service.

**Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion**

**Thursday, April 9th at 7:00pm**

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end and we gather with Christians around the world to recognize the Three Days of Jesus' last supper, 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 those who feel unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

**Good Friday Cantata  
Friday, April 10th at 7:00pm**

The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion while finding strength and hope in the tree of life. Gathered around the cross, our hearts are opened through a beautifully presentation of the cantata *Shadows* and as we offer an ancient bidding prayer for all the world.

**Easter Egg Hunt & Children's Vigil  
Saturday, April 11th at 10:00am  
The Olochnowicz Estate**

Join Messiah's children and youth 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! Deep fried peeps will likely even be back this year! Following the Easter Egg Hunt, we'll continue our tradition of a brief, kid-friendly version of our Easter Vigil service around a campfire. This is one event will certainly be urging our friends from Trinity Reformed to join us in so it'll also be a great

**Easter Matins  
Sunday, April 13th at 8:15am**

Are you someone looking forward to joining us on Easter Sunday but not looking forward to the craziness and big crowds associated with that day? With those folks in mind, we offered a very successful short, meditative Easter Matins service last year and we're bringing it back by popular

demand! The service will be around a half hour featuring meditative music and a renewing of our baptismal vows and will give folks plenty of time to head upstairs for Easter Breakfast!

**48th Annual Easter Breakfast  
Sunday, April 13th at 8:30am**

Join us for our 48th Annual Easter Breakfast from 8:30am – 10:00am. We'll have eggs to order, bacon, toast, home fries, coffee, juice and coffee cake. Please RSVP on the narthex bulletin board or on Realm. If you are interested in serving or helping with breakfast, please see Kitchen Committee Chairs Karen Kreischer and Rich Becker.

**Easter Sunday Service of Holy  
Communion**

**Sunday, April 13th 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! This is straight up always the best Sunday of the year at Messiah! Please join us!

**Regional Food Bank Sorting**

**Saturday, April 18th from 1-3pm  
Regional Food Bank  
965 Albany Shaker Rd, Latham,  
NY 12110**

On April 18th, we will be sorting food again at the Regional Food Bank. We are there from 1-3 pm and there is room for a maximum of 20 volunteers so sign up as soon as possible. At the food bank, pull around toward the back of the building, find a parking spot and

*Hannah, Grace,  
and Ella having tea  
with Koda in the  
nursery.*



enter through the ramp that says Volunteers. You should get there so a little before 1 so that you are present when instructions are given at 1PM.

**Earth Day Service of Holy  
Communion**

**Sunday, April 19th at 10:15am**

From a Lutheran perspective, our relationship with God, our relationship with others and our relationship with creation is all intertwined. Being good stewards of the planet God has given us does mean talking about big issues like climate change, endangered species and the millions of folks suffering from dirty air and water, but it also means feeding hungry people, nurturing relationships, cultivating our soil for the benefit of our neighborhood and simply taking time to appreciate the marvel of creation all around us. Join our Synodically Authorized Minister, Rianne Johnson, for a festive Earth Day Service where'll we celebrate the goodness of God's creation and recommit to living out our baptismal calling to care for creation in the year ahead!

**Earth Honoring Faiths: Working for  
Climate Justice in Our Time**

**Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00pm**

For Messiah's third annual Earth Day lecture we'll welcome nationally known scholar, speaker and theologian Dr. Melanie L. Harris, Founding Director of African American and Africana Studies and Professor of Religion and Ethics at Texas Christian

University. Dr. Harris is a former broadcast journalist who worked as a news producer for ABC, CBS, and NBC affiliates. A community leader whose passion for education is linked to a commitment to social justice, she has also served as an educational consultant with the Ford Foundation, the Forum for Theological Exploration, and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Lilly Endowment Inc. Her talk will focus on the intersection of race, religion, gender and environmental ethics. Please join us friends for what's become a powerful and well attended annual tradition for many throughout the Greater Capital Region!

**Fourth Annual Massive Children &  
Youth Lock-in!!!**

**Saturday, April 25th at 3:30pm -  
Sunday, March 26th at 9:00am**

Sign-up on the narthex bulletin board or on Realm asap so your child (age 8 through high school) can attend one of our favorite youth and family events of the year at Messiah! Activities will begin with an afternoon trip to the trampoline park followed by an evening of karaoke, an epic scavenger hunt, campfire devotionals and of course the classic Pastor Dustin's Totally Rad



Our Building Consolidation crew had their first meeting at Top's! Charlie, Neal, Pete, Joyce, Connie, Laurie, and Pastor Dustin all pictured.

Sunday Morning 90s Dance Party Breakfast! At some point older youth will have the option to do their own thing together and at other times will be asked to help our younger kiddos. This event is free of charge and if you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin. Friends of our children are more than welcome to attend as well!

**The Poor People's Campaign:  
Moral March on Washington  
Saturday, June 20th, 2020  
United States Capitol Building  
US Capitol Grounds  
in Washington, DC**

Messiah's headed to Washington this summer for the Poor People's Campaign Mass Assembly and Moral March on Washington! The gathering will be a generationally transformative event in front of the US Capitol in Washington DC. People of faith from across the country will be gathering to stand with the poor as they raise up the collective voice of poor and low-income people. The Poor People's Campaign demands that both our major political parties address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the distorted moral narrative

of religious nationalism in America by implementing a truly Moral Agenda. If the rejected millions—the poor without health insurance, without living wages, without clean water, without voting protections—unite, especially alongside people of faith, we can move the moral and civic imagination of our country across party lines and revive the heart of the nation! Forty three percent of our fellow citizens, including members of Messiah, are now struggling to get by, and building on the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before he was assassinated, raising up the voices of those directly affected by poverty will be the best way to bring lasting change. *If you have any questions, are interested in attending or would like to join other people of faith on a bus from the Capital Region, please contact Pastor Dustin asap.*

**News You Can Use!**

**Messiah's New Governance Structure Launches!**

Since January, as called for in our 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan, our new governance structure of having all of our committees broken up into five ministry teams (Faith Formation, Fellowship, Social Action, Stewardship and Worship

& Music) has greatly decreased the number of regular meetings, led to greater collaboration and has supported us growing from pastor centered to a program centered congregation. That said, there's a number of leadership areas we need filled:

*Faith Formation Ministry Team  
(coordinated by Ibrahím Pedriñán)*

- Youth Ministry Chair

*Fellowship Ministry Team  
(coordinator needed)*

- Mighty Men of Messiah Chair
- Young Adult Group Chair
- Welcome Committee Chair
- Arts & Culture Committee Chair

*Social Action Ministry Team  
(coordinated by Pete Jones)*

- Social Justice Committee Chair
- Community Service Committee Chair

*Stewardship Ministry Team  
(coordinated by Penny Incitti)*

- Mission Support Committee Chair
- Archives Committee Chair

*Worship & Music Ministry Team  
(coordinated by Rianne Johnson)*

- Prayer & Meditation Committee Chair

If you're interested in serving in any of these capacities, please speak with Pastor Dustin!

### **God's Work of Knitting Two Faiths Communities Together Begins!**

Over breakfast on Monday, March 4th our Joint Consolidation Task Force with our friends from Trinity Reformed Church met for the first time! There was much discussed and a great deal to do, from the more precise work of analyzing how to consolidate our financial, property and human resources in service to God's purpose for our congregations to the more fun work of planning more opportunities for our two congregations to be together and how to combine the efforts of our respective food pantries. Our respective financial leaders, property leaders, worship leaders, parish administrators and social action leaders will soon begin meeting on a regular basis while Pastor Dustin and Pastor Jonathan will begin meeting every other week to keep our process going. This group is made up of Neal Fisher, Charles Zitzmann and Joyce Gresham from Messiah with Laurie Lumbra and Connie Aldrich from Trinity and will next meet on Monday, March 23rd at noon! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your congregation's respective task force members before then!

### **Reverse Lenten Project**

Our Reverse Advent project was such a success that we thought we would do something similar for Lent. We are suggesting for this time, to add as many items to the bag as you wish. The bags will be available on Sunday, Feb 23rd, at the Pancake Supper, Tues Feb 25th and Ash Wednesday, Feb 26th. They will, again, have lists of the products we use in the pantry. If possible, please stick to that list. We are asking that you bring them back on Palm Sunday, April 5th and place them on the

altar. We appreciate all the donations and help this congregation gives to the Food Pantry and our community.

### **Join Messiah in Going Solar with Common Energy!**

Announcing an exciting new partnership with our friends at [Common Energy!!!](https://www.commonenergy.us/partners/messiah-lutheran) Messiah recently signed up to both save money and receive 100% renewable solar energy from local community solar provider Common Energy and you can too! Common provides folks in our area with a guaranteed lower energy bill, a lower carbon footprint and for every household that signs up using this link: <https://www.commonenergy.us/partners/messiah-lutheran> **\$50 is reinvested back in additional energy saving efforts at Messiah Lutheran Church!** So far we have two households signed up and we're hoping to get to twenty! Signing up is a breeze! If you have any questions, please speak with Creation Care Chair Karen Enke Telfeyan!!!

### **We're Funding the Furnace!!!**

Especially given that a major capital appeal campaign is no longer happening immediately, it's important we replenish our Dr. Robert Doremus Emergency Fund used to purchase our new sanctuary HVAC system quickly! Many thanks to our many members and our friends from Christ Lutheran Church who've contributed so generously to the campaign so far! We've currently collected \$6,850 of the \$10,000 needed so we're almost three quarters of the way to our goal! Let's wrap this up by Easter Sunday!

### **Social Action Ministry Team Update**

On February 12th, Pastor Dustin, Merle, Ibrahim and I (Pete) attended the 2020 Ecumenical Advocacy Day sponsored by the New York State Council of Churches.

It was a day-long event. After the welcome and introduction of key people, we listened to Ron Deutsch, Executive Director of Fiscal Policy Institute and Lara Castle - Coordinator - Medicaid For All New York discussing the New York State Budget. That presentation was followed by a panel discussion around the budget and programs which the Council of Churches Support. For the next hour 11:15 - 12:15, we broke up into one of 5 workshops (Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Issues, Immigration, Housing & Homelessness and Worker's Rights) at which we listened to additional presentations and asked questions.

After lunch, we went to several appointments with the offices of our elected officials and asked for their support on the issues from the morning workshops. Each visit had a short time for additional questions. Our group visited the Offices of Jim Tedisco, George Amedore and Phil Steck. It was an enlightening time.

Our next Social Action Ministry meeting will meet on the April 14th from 7-9 PM. This includes the committees of Bread of Life Food Pantry, Social Justice, Creation Care, Community Service and SICM Delegates. As we did in January, we will meet as a group for the first part of the meeting and then break up into the separate committees during the second part of the meeting. I

hope we have a leader for the Community Service Committee and still need a Leader for the Social Justice Committee. If interested, please see Pete Jones.

### Faith Formation Ministry Team Update

We had our meeting at the beginning of February with some exciting highlights. We mirrored the gather-scatter model where there was large group time, then break outs, then back together for reporting back in and wrap-up. We reiterated our purpose, goals, objectives, and budget and then broke out to work through details. Here are some of those exciting items:

- Messiah is in a “baby boom” (6 babies at least!) and will invest in Cradle Roll and resources for babies and families
- Sunday School will have a gather-scatter model with a hard 9am start where Pastor Dustin will begin the time with everyone and then age groups will break out
- Confirmation Retreat happened at Camp Fowler mid-February where our kids and other “local Lutheran cluster” kids had a great time together
- Calumet Fundraising activities are gearing up to ensure our kids can share and grow and learn and love - give generously!
- In collaboration with Council’s endorsement of the Poor People’s Campaign, Faith Formation will be showing “We Cried Power” in May ahead of the June 20th PPC March on Washington - more details forthcoming

- Adult Education started a new book by Jim Wallis, Christ in Crisis, and will follow that up with more diverse voices from people like James Cone, William Barber, and others
- Melanie Harris will speak on EcoWomanism at 7pm on April 21st and should be a great intersection of faith formation, race discussions, and creation care
- Book Club is coming back the 4th Thursday of the Month as a function of Coffee Club; we will discuss “Dear Church” on March 26th at 11am at the Parsonage
- Everyone in Faith Formation is also very excited to work with members of Trinity Reformed, to listen to their Faith Formation needs and collaborate with them

These were highlights but know that exciting things are going on in the realm of Faith Formation and there are many opportunities to plug in. As always, reach out if you have comments, questions, concerns, or encouragement since I know the whole Faith Formation Ministry Team loves to know what you’re thinking, as do I of course!

A Lenten blessing: “From dust you have come, to dust you shall return. Between those, May you spring up in solidarity, May you flower with the fragrance of love, May you bear fruits of freedom and liberation, the healing of the nations!”

### Camp Calumet News!

We currently have somewhere between ten and fourteen of our

youth attending Camp Calumet this summer and Kristen and all the Calumet kids' and their parents have been hard at work preparing for fundraising season to start this March to reach our goal of paying half the cost for a week of camp of each youth! Ongoing fundraisers will include a bottle collection, a t-shirt sale, a change collection and something called “March Mug Madness” where our kids will lead a decorate your own mug project for \$5 each to help green our congregation and cut down on kitchen costs. Here's a preview of specific upcoming events:

- Saturday, March 15th at 6:30pm: Bingo Night with Sister Robert Ann
- Sunday, May 3rd after worship: Crepes for Calumet Luncheon
- Friday, May 8th at 6:30pm: Paint & Snack Night at the Olochnowicz Garage Mahal
- TBA, June: Second Annual Calumet Carwash

Sunday, June 28th at 7:00pm: Second Annual Campership Fund Benefit Night featuring the Messiah Lutheran Choir

## Ministry Team Meetings

### Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting

**Tuesday, March 17th at 7:00pm**

The Stewardship Ministry Team comprises all our committees that steward all of the tools we have as a congregation to support the work of everything God calls us to do as a congregation. Members of the Communications Committee, the Property &

Grounds Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Mission Support and Budget & Finance Committee will BRIEFLY meet together to hear common updates and then break out into small groups to discuss their regular business. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Dustin.



*Congratulations to Anthony, Atticus, and Jack for recently making their first communion!*

**Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting**

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

On Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> we will be having our April Worship & Music meeting. We will be spending some important time discussing our Minister of Music job description, making finalizations for Holy Week, looking ahead into future baptisms and other important rites, and more! If you want to have a voice in Messiah's liturgy and music, please join our tight-knit group! For more information, please contact ministry team chair Rianne Johnson.

**Ministers of the Month: Youth of Messiah!**



Congratulations to our youth for all being ministers of the month! There's so many of you to list, but thank you for what wonderful things you all do for the congregation – most notably when our Sunday School (with the help of the Donut Club and Breakfast Club) raised \$191.50 for Whiskers and the Schoharie Animal Shelter during our Help a Homeless Pet Bake Sale! Whether it's holding the processional cross up proudly, lighting the altar candles, helping out with ushering, or just participating in our education hour at Messiah, you all are rocking it!



## PASTOR'S LETTER: REV. DUSTIN G. WRIGHT

Dear siblings in Christ,

Gosh as I write this on Friday, March 6th, I can get over how much of a whirlwind of a week it's been:

On Monday and Thursday, our Joint Consolidation Task Force with our friends at Trinity Reformed and we've made a great deal of progress in terms of beginning to connect our members with each other and starting a comprehensive evaluation process for the future of our buildings. As more information becomes available, our task force delegates Neal Fisher, Charlie Zitzmann and Joyce Gresham will provide regular updates during announcements on Sunday mornings (including this Sunday). President Pete Jones has also sat in on these conversations.

On Thursday afternoon, we had a brief conversation at a regular Schenectady Clergy Against Hate meeting about a common response from our faith communities to the coronavirus. Please see the posted update to learn more about the conversation that took place and what Messiah is doing to help keep all our members, friends and neighbors safe and healthy.

On Thursday evening, during choir, a small fire took place in our Fellowship Hall when an older programmable thermostat seems to have shorted out. No one was hurt and no major damage took place although emergency services were appropriately called as a precaution. Our Property and Grounds Committee will meet next week to discuss how to evaluate our HVAC and electrical infrastructure to make sure everything meets contemporary safety standards. Many thanks to Steve Friebel, Charlie Zitzmann, Bill Ellis, Mr. Doug and ALL our choir members who responded to this safety issue at Messiah.

Whew, that's a lot, but it's also a picture of Spirit filled community at its best... folks supporting one another amidst difficulties and prayerfully discerning how the Spirit is leading us forward.

As we journey towards Easter, a likely consolidation with our friends at Trinity Reformed, a bunch of new youth faith formation opportunities and welcoming a huge number of new babies in the waters of baptism at Messiah, I have no doubt that the incredible sense of teamwork, solidarity and mutual support in Christ I've seen this past week will serve us well!

May you know the peace of Christ as we continue our Lenten journey and during all that is ahead,

Pastor Dustin

# Prayer List

**Please pray for: Our members:** Bill Becker, Lore Ellis, Denise Larrabee, Ed & Laura Underkoffler, Jacob Veerasammy **Our friends and family:** Deanna Alexander, The Bloomquist Family, Bill Brust, Chris Canova, Ginny Diegel, Wanda Eaker, Bonnie Enke, Samantha Gainsworth, Sabrina Girard, John Greene, Jack & Rose Johnson, Margit LaForest, Willy Larson, Omar Martin, Cheri McGinty, Sr. Monica McFee, Michael O'Neill, Jack Nunez, Alyssa Parrino, Clark Russell, Christine Simeone, Wayne Stewart, Jason Townsend, Bob Trachtenberg, **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](mailto: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!*

## March Birthdays

Aryan Veerasammy ..... March 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Max Borski ..... March 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Rachel Davis ..... March 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Ed Underkoffler ..... March 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Shelby Miller ..... March 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Anthony DeTeso ..... March 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Jesse Mathis ..... March 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Hannah Cawley ..... March 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Dick Stigberg ..... March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Grayson Tallman ..... March 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Suzanne Collins ..... March 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Kiersten Becker ..... March 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Collin Bascom ..... March 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Ibrahim Pedrinan ..... March 30<sup>th</sup>

***If we're missing your birthday or anniversary, or have an incorrect date, please let Rianne know at [office@messiahschenectady.org](mailto:office@messiahschenectady.org)***

## Readings for March

### March 8<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 12:1-4a  
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
 John 3:1-17

### March 15<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 17:1-7  
 Romans 5:1-11  
 John 4:5-42

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
 Ephesians 5:8-14  
 John 9:1-41

### March 29<sup>th</sup>

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

### April 5<sup>th</sup>

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

## Worship Assistants for March 8<sup>th</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>

	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	March 29 <sup>th</sup>	April 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Abriel McGuire	Kyle Avery	Pamella Ford	Kristen O.	Betsy Ryan
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ella Roether	Izzy Paige	Liam Tedford	Austin Karrel	Sarah O.
<b>Crucifer</b>	Jesse Mathis	Tyler Jones	Abriel McGuire	Kyle Avery	Hannah Crowther
<b>Lector</b>	Linda Klein	Rachel Mathis	Karen Telfeyan	Rich Stigberg	Margaret Glennie
<b>Ushers</b>	Vanessa & Atticus Roether	Tom Chilton Phil Davis	Charlie Z. Phil Davis	Randi & Rene Dunda-Martin	Marilyn Barnett Pamella Ford
<b>Greeters</b>	Allison Bode Nancy S.	Marilyn Barnett Barb Sandmeyer	Ann Marie Gray Kristie Becker	Allison Bode Nancy S.	Marilyn Barnett Barb Sandmeyer
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jill, Linda, & Grace	Dotty, Barb, & Sarah	Pamella, Ella, Joyce	Rene & Randi Dunda-Martin	Joyce, Carly, Abriel
<b>Bread Baker</b>					
<b>Nursery</b>		Matt Kane Hannah Borski	Melissa & Amaya DiGiovanni	Molly Karrel Hannah C.	Faleema V. Abriel McGuire
<b>Tech Czar</b>	Rianne Johnson	Nathaniel M.	Marcus DiGiovanni	Logan Karrel Rianne Johnson	Nathaniel M.

*Are you unable to make it on a Sunday you are scheduled? No worries! Please just reach out to other individuals who serve in your role – if you need a contact sheet, let Rianne know at [office@messiahschenectady.org](mailto:office@messiahschenectady.org) and she will send one to you. If you are in a pinch and are unable to find anybody, please let Rianne or Pastor Dustin know. Thanks!*

March 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Education Hour  <b>10:15am</b> Worship  <b>11:30am</b> Coffeeshour  <b>6pm</b> Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> Monday Crafters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p><b>12pm</b> Executive Ministry Mtg.  <b>7pm</b> Stewardship Ministry Team Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Lenten Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p><b>11am</b> Coffee Club  <b>1pm</b> Over 55 Gang  <b>6pm</b> Meditation  <b>7pm</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Bingo w. Sister Robert Ann</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Education Hour  <b>10:15am</b> Worship  <b>11:30am</b> Coffeeshour  <b>6pm</b> Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Food Pantry  <b>7pm</b> Congregation Council</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Who is My Neighbor Conference</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Lenten Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p> <p><b>11am</b> Coffee Club  <b>6pm</b> Meditation  <b>7pm</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> HudMo Youth Lockin</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Education Hour  <b>10:15am</b> Worship  <b>11:30am</b> Coffeeshour  <b>6pm</b> Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p><b>5pm</b> Food Pantry  <b>7pm</b> Monday Crafters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Lenten Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p><b>11am</b> Coffee Club  <b>6pm</b> Community Meditation Hour  <b>7pm</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Food Pantry</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> Education Hour  <b>10:15am</b> Worship  <b>11:30am</b> Coffeeshour  <b>2pm</b> Pippin Musical at Mohon  <b>2pm</b> SICM Empty Bowls  <b>6pm</b> Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> Worship &amp; Music  <b>7pm</b> Monday Crafters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Articles Due!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Lenten Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>11am</b> Coffee Club  <b>6pm</b> Community Meditation Hour  <b>7pm</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>

## 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: ???  
 Secretary: ???  
 Financial Secretary: Penny Incitti  
 Treasurer: René Dunda-Martin

### Congregation Council

Name	Phone	Email Address	Term	Ministry Team Liaison
Suzanne Collins	518.605.2171 (m)	scollins@nycap.rr.com	18-21	
Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (m)	jonesp714@gmail.com	18-21	
Anne Marie Gray	518.577.0812 (m)	runnergirl6221@gmail.com	18-21	
Steve Friebel	518.451.0628 (m)	sfbandit33@gmail.com	19-22	
René Dunda-Martin	607.228.7771 (m)	drne51@yahoo.com	19-22	
Phil Bazicki	518.355.0490 (m)	pcbkmbe@earthlink.net	19-22	
Carly DiSanto	518.368.5293 (m)	gramy711@aol.com	20-23	
Karen Keenan	518.788.7614 (m)	karenekeenan@gmail.com	20-23	
Joyce Gresham	518.258.0574 (m)	rjg301@aol.com	20-23	
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: drumrchic19@yahoo.com

### Ministry Team Chairs, Organization Chairs and Other Appointed Leaders

Ministry Team / Committee	Coordinator / Chair(s)	Phone	Email Address
<b>Social Action Team</b>	<b>Pete Jones</b>	<b>518.867.2489 (m)</b>	<b>jonesp714@gmail.com</b>
Social Justice	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Community Service	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Bread of Life Food Pantry	Judy Becker Joyce Gresham	518.419.2175 (m) 518.258.0574 (m)	wbecker001@nycap.rr.com rjg301@aol.com
Creation Care	Kären Telfeyan	716.307.3440 (m)	karen.telfeyan@gmail.com
SICM Delegates	Nancy Stellrecht Betsy Ryan	518.630.5299 (m) 518.847.6111 (m)	nancywestervelt@yahoo.com qwilll@yahoo.com

<b>Faith Formation Team</b>	<b>Ibrahím Pedriñán</b>	<b>320.444.5655 (m)</b>	<b>ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.com</b>
Adult Education	Merle Longwood	518.944.4475 (m)	longwood@siena.edu
Children's Sunday School	Cheryl Borski	518.429.6955 (m)	cborski@transtechsys.com
Cradle Roll & Nursery	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Youth	Tammi Crowther Betsy Sweet	518.605.8227 (m) 518.330.0335 (m)	tula1970@hotmail.com jennaizziesmom@yahoo.com
Camp Calumet	Kristen Olochnowicz	518.378.0756 (m)	krispeno@gmail.com
<b>Fellowship Team</b>	<b>Pastor Dustin</b>	<b>603.953.8782</b>	<b>pastor@messiaschenectady.org</b>
Mighty Men of Messiah	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Women of the ELCA	Jill Becker	518.357.9875 (m)	jb@hrfmlaw.com
Care & Concern	Barb Hallett	518.356.3491 (h)	squeaky7762@aol.com
Young Adult Group	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Kitchen	Rich Becker Karen Kreischer	518.461.0034 (m) 518.785.9723 (h)	richbecker2340@gmail.com no email
Over 55 Gang	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Welcome	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Arts & Culture	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
<b>Stewardship Team</b>	<b>Penny Incitti</b>	<b>518.461.5499 (m)</b>	<b>pennyincitti@gmail.com</b>
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
Audit	Neal Fisher	518.355.5193 (h)	nfisher1@nycap.rr.com
Mission Support	Penny Incitti	518.461.5499 (m)	pennyincitti@gmail.com
Archives	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Synod & Conference Assembly Delegates	Rianne Johnson Ibrahím Pedriñán	518.925.0819 (m) 320.444.5655 (m)	office@messiahschenectady.org ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.com
Safe Church	Pamella Ford Ernie Incitti	917.414.9790 (h) ernieinciiti@gmail.com	pfordny@aol.com ernieincitti@gmail.com
Mutual Ministry	Christine DeMento	518.569.6002 (m)	cdemento@northway.aaa.com
Budget & Finance	Kristie Becker	518.469.4817 (m)	kristiebecker032801@gmail.com
<b>Worship &amp; Music Team</b>	<b>Rianne Johnson</b>	<b>518.925.0819 (m)</b>	<b>office@messiahschenectady.org</b>
Choir	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Prayer & Meditation	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Sanctuary & Altar Guild	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT

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

**[www.messiahschenectady.org](http://www.messiahschenectady.org)**

**Pastor**

Rev. Dustin G. Wright

**Parish Administrator**

Rianne Johnson

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday 3pm-7pm

Wednesday 9am-3pm

Thursday 12pm-6pm

**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**