

The Messenger

A monthly publication from our Spirit filled church.

Volume 93, Issue 8 | November 2020



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We are a Spirit filled church following Jesus Christ.

Community Events

Our Antiracist Calling
Sundays, continuing November
22nd at 8:45am

<https://zoom.us/j/94311937514>

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be anti-racist. Period. But what does that mean exactly? Through this fall, we will continue our course during our regular Sunday morning adult education hour at Messiah/Trinity addressing that very question. Each Sunday will feature discussion of both a Bible passage and various resources that address racism and can help ground our understanding of current events through the lens of the Christian faith. The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/94311937514> or you can even call in via phone at 929.205.6099 and then dialing 94311937514#.

Mass for the Feast of Christ the King
Sunday, November 22nd at
10:15am

On this, the final Sunday of the liturgical year, we reflect on what the "Kingdom of God" means and also will welcome in our twenty new members! Pastor Jonathan will preach and Pastor Dustin will preside. We'll also welcome Michael Mitchel, Lisa Johnson, Nancy Stuebner, Dave Stuebner, Andrew Stuebner, Amy Roach, Kim Pomykaj, Edward Pomykaj, Gladys Cath, Sheri Lamb, Krista Russo, Barbara Quackenbush, Ray Smith, Kimlee Marquise, Tracey Shepherd, Rebecca Bliss, Matt Bliss and Clark Bliss officially as new members of our Spirit filled community!

Children's Sunday School
Sundays, continuing November
22nd at 12:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/94695686497>

Kiddos age pre-k through middle school and their families are invited to join us for the kickoff of another awesome year of Children's Sunday School at Messiah/Trinity! After an awesome opening with Pastor Dustin, kids will separate into three Zoom Rooms by age to work with their Sunday School Leaders through an awesome project and conversation on the same texts we discussed during worship. You might have a friend or neighbor whose looking for an opportunity to help their kids learn good values in such a complicated world. Please invite them to Children's Sunday School at Messiah/Trinity! To register your child for Sunday School, or any of our ministries for young people, please fill out [our new, convenient and HIPAA compliant online form](#)

for each child/ youth. This week will be "Bring Your Parent to Sunday School Day" and the theme of our lesson will be "Sheep and Goats" based on Saint Matthew 25:31 - 46.

**Mass for the First Sunday in
Advent: Hope
Sunday, November 29th at
10:15am**

On this, the first Sunday in Advent, we focus on Christ's call to "keep watch" for the Kingdom of God in our midst, or in other words, to look for and proclaim hope in the most difficult of times. Surrounded by beautiful winter adaptation of Holden Evening Prayer performed by Jill Becker and Pastor Jonathan, the Hallett family will lead us in the lighting of the first candle of our Advent wreath. Pastor Dustin will preach and preside.

**Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle
Monday, November 30th at
6:00pm**

Apostles are "sent ones" and the apostle Andrew's story is found in today's gospel, Gospel: John 1:35-42. The apostle Paul asks additional, pertinent questions: How will the world hear of its Savior? How will they believe? How will they call on him? The answers rest with the "sent ones." Baptism places each of us in this holy apostolic band.

**Advent Compline
Beginning Wednesday,
December 2nd at 7:00pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/97664480314>

Every year at Messiah/Trinity, we take some time out our busy weeks to gather around the Advent wreath in prayer, worship and conversation. This year's midweek Advent offering will be no exception! Surrounded by Evangelical Lutheran Worship's



beautiful evening Compline service sung by Emily Russo, each week we'll discuss one of the four Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love breaking into our midst and be treated to a beautiful recorded hymn sung by one of our members at Messiah/Trinity. You can either watch on:

<http://www.messiahschenectady.org/worshiplive.html>,

on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/MessiahLC>, or join us on Zoom!

**Community Meditation
Thursdays, continuing December
3rd at 6:00pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/92213668480>

Hey friends! So as Pastor Dustin is tied up on Thursday evenings with his service on the Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, we're going to have cancel our virtual Community Meditation sessions through November. That said, on December 3rd we'll be back with a new time every week at 6:00pm! As we face the coronavirus together, these virtual half hour meditation gatherings are intended to help our members,

friends and neighbors cope with anxiety, relax, and work through the collective trauma we are all experiencing.

**Mass for the Second Sunday in
Advent: Peace
Sunday, December 6th at
10:15am**

On this, the second Sunday in Advent, we focus on John the Baptizer's message to repent and proclaim peace! Continuing with our winter adaption of Holden Evening Prayer, the Karrel family will lead us in the lighting of the second candle of our Advent wreath. Pastor Dustin will preach and preside.

**The Meaning of Christmas: A
Forum for Young People
Sunday, December 7th at 5:00pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/93679361045>

As a "pre-show" of sorts for our Community Christmas Concert, join our Confirmation Class for a closer look at the two (very different) Christmas stories in Saint Matthew and Saint Luke's gospels and discussion on the history of Advent and Christmas. The event will be both on Zoom and on Facebook Watch at



<http://www.facebook.com/MessiahLC>.

Eighth Annual Community Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7th at 6:00pm

Just because we're physically apart this Christmas does not mean that we can't still come together in a Spirit filled community! In what has become one of Rotterdam's most cherished annual traditions, our Eighth Annual Community Christmas Concert this year will feature not only all your traditional favorite hymns but also a wide variety of Scripture readings from various members of Trinity and Messiah. The concert will also serve as the culmination of our annual Advent collection to raise at least \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for families in need through Save our Street's Adopt a Family Program in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood of Schenectady. Watch the show at <http://www.messiahschenectady.org/worshiplive.html> or join the congregation and wider community on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/MessiahLC>!

Mass for the Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

Sunday, December 13th at 10:15am

On this, the third Sunday in Advent, often known as Gaudette Sunday, we hear Mary's song of joy and liberation for all people. Along with the beautifully sung words of Holden Evening Prayer, the Vasquez family leads us in the lighting of the third candle of our Advent wreath. Pastor Jonathan will preach and Pastor Dustin will preside.

colaborate: A Community Confirmation Class for Middle Schoolers

Sundays, continuing December 13th at 6:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/92815271554>

All middle school aged children in our local community and their families are invited to join us for our weekly virtual Confirmation Class program using the colaborate curriculum from Sparkhouse! This fall every week

we'll watch a video, engage in brief Bible study and have a conversation about how to make sense of the complicated world we're living in through the lens of the New Testament. To register your youth for Confirmation Class, or any of our ministries for young people, please fill out [our new, convenient and HIPAA compliant online form for each child/ youth](#). This week's class will be on the Acts of the Apostles.

Mass for the Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love **Sunday, December 20th at 10:15am**

As Advent nears to a close, we focus on the loving solidarity Mary & Elizabeth had for one another and the good news that liberated by Christ's love, nothing is impossible! Pastor Dustin will preach and preside. And heh, there will also be a VERY special surprise in store for all who join us!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass **Thursday, December 24th at 7:00pm**

Join the people of Messiah/Trinity on this most holy of nights! The Christ Candle will be lit this year by Russell, Sheri and Gladys, three of our newest members at Messiah. Pastor Dustin will give a very special sermon while Pastor Jonathan will preside and the service will conclude with the singing of "Silent Night" as the light of Christ spreads throughout the assembly. A wide variety of members from both Messiah and Trinity will be included in the service. All our friends and neighbors are more than welcome to join and build some community with us this Christmas Eve at:

<http://www.messiahschenectady.org/worshiplive.html>, or on Facebook at:



<http://www.facebook.com/MessiahLC!>

Christmas Day Matins
Friday, December 25th at
10:00am

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore! Join us in this pre-recorded service of morning prayer on a Christmas Day like no other!

Christmas Day Compline
Friday, December 25th at 6:00pm

At the close of this holiest of days, join Pastor Dustin for a brief pre-recorded service of evening prayer and reflection on the appointed gospel for the evening

of Christmas Day, Saint John's description of Christ as "the Word of God made flesh."

Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon
and Martyr
Saturday, December 26th at
6:00pm

Saint Stephen, one of the Church's first deacons who attended to the distribution of food to the needy, was also the Church's first martyr. Stephen's dying words echo those of our Savior, whose birth we have begun to celebrate again. Today we pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the vision and voice of Jesus. Join us on the prerecorded service where Pastor Dustin reflects on the legacy of Saint Stephen and the importance of Christian service.

Service of Lessons and Carols
with the ELCA Upstate New York
Synod
Sunday, December 27th at
10:15am

This year for our annual Service of Lessons and Carols we are going to be doing something slightly different than usual. As part of the ELCA Upstate New York Synod, we

are indeed one church together, a fact that is even more important than difficult times! In that spirit, for worship this Sunday we'll be airing a very special service of lessons, carols and reflections showcasing the work and talent of congregations across our synod! There's a good chance many of Messiah/Trinity's ministries will be featured as well! Join with God's people from across the Upstate New York Synod, this Sunday, at Messiah/Trinity!

Feast of the Holy Innocents,
Martyrs
Monday, December 28th at
6:00pm

Jesus escapes the sword in the gospel on this day—but not for long—not forever. He died for us. He died for the world, to put an end to the cycle of violence that continues to claim innocent victims. Rachel's lament, recorded in Jeremiah and echoed in Matthew, is not the last word. "There is hope for your future," says the Lord. As the firstborn of Israel died at the hands of King Herod, we too endanger our young people's future through the systemic sins of overconsumption, hate and an unchecked climate crisis. Join Pastor Dustin for a brief pre-recorded service reflecting on Christian calling to leave a better world for all God's children.

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and
Evangelist
Tuesday, December 29th at
6:00pm

The appointed texts for St. John's day discuss "what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen . . . what we have looked at and touched . . . concerning the word of life." The apostle John was an intimate of the Christ of Christmas, the Word

made flesh, the Word of life. John's gospel invites us to enter into the Christ-life. Join Pastor Dustin for a brief pre-recorded reflecting on Saint John's cosmic understanding of Christ reflected in all things.

New Year's Eve Vespers
Thursday, December 31st at
6:00pm

Gosh, 2020 has been one of the most difficult of years in all our lifetimes. At the turn of the year however, we meditate on endings and beginnings, knowing that all the world's time begins and ends in God. We watch and keep vigil for the coming of God's justice in the year ahead through a brief pre-recorded service with Pastor Dustin.

Feast of the Name of Jesus
Friday, January 1st at 6:00pm

From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were "Christ-ened" at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year. In this brief pre-record service, join Pastor Dustin for a brief reflection on what it means to be a Christian in 2021.

Epiphany Sunday Mass & Home Blessings

Sunday, January 3rd at 10:15am

Since at least the fourth century, Christians have taken time at the end of Christmastide to remember the visitation of Magi, the distant travelers and the first Gentiles to recognize the Good News of Jesus! With the visitation of the Magi, the end of the

Christmas story reminds us that Christ was born for everyone, without exception! This Epiphany Sunday, we'll have a virtual visit from our Magi, traditionally known as Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar. Pastor Jonathan will preach and Pastor Dustin will preside. Throughout the rest of the day Pastor Dustin will once again make himself available to briefly visit and bless the homes of congregation members for the upcoming year, another traditional aspect of Epiphany. If you'd like to have home blessed, please schedule a time with Pastor Dustin!

News You Can Use!

Lead at Messiah!

Every year on the first Sunday in February at Messiah, everyone gathers for an Annual Meeting of the Congregation where we discuss all we've accomplished, look towards the future, pass budgets, elect leaders and often take additional actions that need a full vote of the congregation. This coming year we'll meet on February 7th after worship, whether virtually or in-person, to do all those things and most notably, decide upon a series of actions that will finalize our consolidation with our dear friends at Trinity Reformed. Stay tuned for more details but in the meantime, perhaps you're considering taking on a new role at Messiah/Trinity and our Nominating Committee wants to hear from you! This year the committee is chaired by Sue Collins and includes Pete Jones, Ann Marie Gray and Ibrahím Pedriñán. In addition to finding candidates for a minimum of four Congregation Council members this year, we'll also be electing two delegates to the ELCA Upstate

New York Synod Assembly and Hudson-Mohawk Conference Assemblies as well as two delegates to the Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) Assembly. Besides these elected positions we're also looking for new leaders to fill a number of appointed roles including a Social Justice Chair, a Community Service Chair, a Nursery Chair, a Youth Ministry Chair, a Welcome Chair, an Arts & Culture Chair, a Young Adult Chair, a Men's Group President, 2021 Nominating Committee Members and an Archives Chair. If any of these things sound of interest to you, please contact Sue Collins!

Worship Support at Messiah/Trinity

We all have various sized households and some of our members and friends have reported they are beginning to run out of communion wafers. If that describes you, our wonderful Care & Concern Committee Chair Barb Hallett has offered to deliver you more supplies! Simply give her a call if needed!

Give Hope at Messiah/Trinity: Advent/ Christmas 2020

Each season of the church year at Messiah/Trinity in addition to engaging in community service, caring for creation and collaborating on social justice initiatives, our Social Action Ministry Team also identifies a number of organizations who could use our support in making a difference in the lives of our neighbors! This Advent & Christmas we urge our members and friends to consider contributing in three critical ways: A collection of nonperishable foods for Trinity and Messiah's food pantry ministries (see the attached shopping list).

A collection of socks, bras and underwear of all genders and sizes for the MohonCARES Clothing Closet.

A collection of funds to support Save Our Street's Adopt a Family program. Our goal is to raise \$500 by the end of our Community Christmas Concert on December 6th!

Nonperishable foods and undergarments can be dropped off in the labeled bins in the vestibule of Messiah's main entrance on Oak Street and Save our Streets can be supported by either making a donation using our virtual tithely platform or by check to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Give Hope" in the memo line. Thank you for all the ways you give hope this Advent and Christmas!

Autumn 2020 Mission Support Campaign Update

We have exciting news to announce! Your belief that God is still in control during these uncertain times is evident as you are declaring your investment in our ministries in 2021! Despite not being able to be physically together, we are already having the most successful mission support campaign in decades at Messiah! **As of Friday, November 13th, we have received 58 Statements of Intent toward our goal of 60.** Of these cards, well over half have either shown an increase in generosity or represent first time pledging households. In fact, if all of our remaining annually pledging households submit similar Statements of Intent for 2021 as they did for this year, we're already projecting an increase of OVER \$26,000 in financial support for our life changing ministries in the year



ahead. **In addition, through October of this year due to decreased costs, your incredible generosity and our PPP Loan just being forgiven (thanks René and Dave!), we are in the black by \$17,778.41, or \$21,239.98 better than we were doing last year through October.** These financial resources get us incredibly close to what we believe is needed to not only fund our current ministries but also bring on Pastor Jonathan as a Interim Associate Pastor for 2021 and maintain Trinity's building as it transforms into a center of community for all our neighbors in Rotterdam!

Remember too, **will we receive an additional generous challenge grant of \$3000 once we receive only TWO MORE Statements of Intent.** Please help us reach our goal this week by either using our [virtual form](#) or emailing Penny Incitti at pennyincitti@gmail.com! Please submit your Statement of Intent today! Whether it's \$5 a day, \$5 a month or \$5 a year, your generosity is so, so greatly appreciated!

Finally, if you're able to help sustain these life changing, innovative ministries, please consider a financial gift online using our secure tithely system by going to www.tiny.cc/SupportMessiah or by mailing a check to Messiah Lutheran Church, 2850 Gunderland Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12306. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Technology Support at Messiah/Trinity

We need to make sure all of us stayed connected! If you're someone in need of help getting on or using Facebook, contact Randi Dunda-Martin at 607.228.7770, Joyce Gresham at 518.355.5177 or Carly DiSanto at 518.630.5299. If you need help with email, Tithely (our virtual giving platform) or Realm (our virtual church directory), contact Penny Incitti at 518.356.2460. For Help with Zoom (an online digital conferencing technology used for meetings, Fellowship & Faith Formation), contact Russell McDonald at 208.920.3974, Penny Incitti at 518.356.2460, Rich Becker at 518.461.0034, Sue Collins at

518.605.2171 and Tom Collins at 518.605.1304. While we encourage all our members to connect with virtual Sunday worship on Facebook as it builds better community, you can also watch live on our website at <http://www.messiahschenectady.org/worshiplive.html>. The page is updated with a new live feed of the service every Sunday right after 10:00am with a recording posted there throughout the week. If you are having issues connecting with virtual Sunday worship, PLEASE contact Pastor Dustin at: pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Ministry Team Meetings

Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting Monday, December 7th at 7:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96341841016>

Interested in helping our faith community figure out how we'll continue to ground ourselves in the Way of Jesus each and every Sunday? Join our Worship & Music Ministry Team! In addition to planning for regular Sunday services, this group also coordinates our Choir, our Altar Guild/ Sanctuary Prep, our Meditation & Prayer ministries! Rianne Johnson is our Ministry Team Coordinator and the team meets (almost) every month on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm. The link for this night's meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/96341841016>.

Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/93024204486>

Our Stewardship Ministry Team is the group of committees at Messiah/Trinity that allow us to support our four major program areas. Without being good stewards of our Budget & Finance, Communications, Personnel, Property & Grounds, Mission Support, Archives, Safe Church ministries and more, there's no way we could engage in all the life-changing ministries we do at Messiah/Trinity. A particular focus of this conversation will be evaluating our 2021 Financial Mission Support Campaign, developing a 2021 Unified Parish Budget for Messiah/ Trinity, a review of our "Who is Our Neighbor" Consolidation Plan with our friends at Trinity Reformed and more. Penny Incitti is our Ministry Team Coordinator and the team meets quarterly. The link for tonight's meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/93024204486>.

Care & Concern Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 9th at 1:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/91838754902>

As one committee of our wider Fellowship Ministry Team, Care & Concern is all about making sure our members in need of care are regularly reached out to and supported in the midst of loss, health crises and more. This group also directs our growing mental health and addiction ministries as well as our soon to be developed Memorial Garden. Barb Hallett is our Committee Chair and the committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm. The link for today's meeting is:

<https://zoom.us/j/91838754902>.

Social Action Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/91568452071>

This is by far our most active ministry team at Messiah/Trinity! Our Social Action Ministry Team is the space through which we discern all the ways we're called to serve our neighbors following the Way of Jesus Christ! We do this in a wide variety of ways, through our Social Justice, Creation Care, Community Service, our work with Schenectady Community Ministries, the Bread of Life Food Pantry ministries and more! The top priorities for discussion in this upcoming meeting include how we can continue to support social justice causes like #BlackLivesMatter and Pride as well as the continued transformation of our Bread of Life Food Pantry into a full-fledged community center for the Town of Rotterdam. Pete Jones is our Ministry Team Coordinator and the team meets quarterly. The link for tonight's meeting is <https://zoom.us/j/91568452071>.

Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/99082870648>

At Messiah/Trinity many of us have somehow actually grown closer while physically apart... gosh, the Spirit is certainly at work! The purpose of the Fellowship Ministry Team is to provide opportunities for all of our members (and perspective members) of all ages to connect, hear one another's stories, and have fun! This group includes the Mighty Men of Messiah, Women of the ELCA (WELCA), Care & Concern, Young Adult Group, our Kitchen Committee, Over 55 Gang, our

Welcome Committee for new and perspective members and our new Arts & Culture ministry. The Ministry Team Coordinator role is currently vacant (gosh, we'd love someone!!!) and the team meets quarterly. The link for this afternoon's meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/99082870648>. In this meeting in particular we'll discuss what smaller group fellowship activities we can hold in-person within our New Year Forward COVID19 Safety Plan. Please join us!

Faith Formation Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00pm

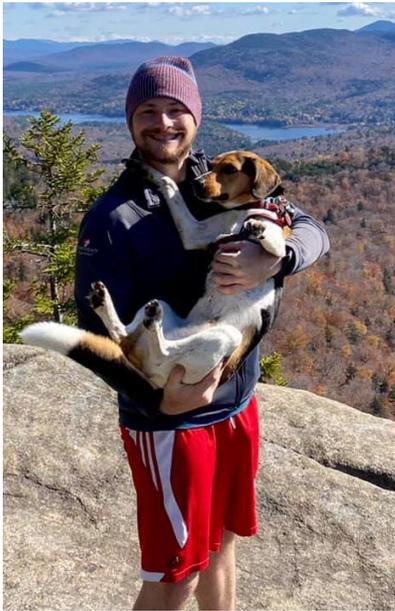
<https://zoom.us/j/92199006383>

Want to help guide how our congregation studies the ancient wisdom of Scripture, explores our connection God and creation and help our young people have a strong, ethical foundation? Join our Faith Formation Ministry Team! This group includes Adult Education, Children's Sunday School, Cradle Roll & Nursery, Youth and Outdoor Ministries! Help us teach folks of all ages how our faith calls us to teach that EVERYONE is created in God's image! Ibrahím Pedriñán is our Ministry Team Coordinator and the team meets quarterly. The link for this night's meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/92199006383>.

December 2020 Ministers of the Month

Every month when our Congregation Council gets together, one of the most important things we do is name a "Minister of the Month" for the month ahead. This December, the Council has voted to recognize members of our Care & Concern Committee, led by Chair Barb Hallett, as our Ministers of the Month!!! In addition to Barb, members include Gloria Maki, Bill Ellis, Paul Bode, Allison Bode, Betsy Ryan, Judy Becker, Joyce Gresham and Russell McDonald. From Barb, Gloria and the Bodes taking the lead on assembling our first bi-annual care packages for young adults away at school, to Russell working overtime to support folks in recovery and learning new technology, to all our members who have sent cards or dropped off meals to our members in need, our Care & Concern Committee has been a CENTRAL ministry our Spirit filled congregation keeping us together during such a difficult year. Thank you, siblings in faith, for all you do and congratulations on being named our December 2020 Ministers of the Month!





Pastor's Letter

Dear siblings in faith,

Gosh, yesterday was an absolutely life-giving day of Spirit filled community. After a powerful morning of conversation in adult education followed by mass, our members of all ages and backgrounds got together to get our facilities ready for winter and had a blast doing it! After that, we once again gathered on Zoom to wrap up what's been a season long, six-part Autumn 2020 New Member Class. And hah, after that, at the end of long but wonderful day, I pulled up Facebook and saw a poem posted by Judy Becker that I'm sure many of us have read over the past now nine months:

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

~Kitty O'Meara

[Thanks to a great interview by Oprah](#), the backstory for what's become for many the "poem of the pandemic" has become clear, but there's one statement in particular from its author Kitty O'Meara that I've continued to contemplate:

"It offers a story of how it could be, what we could do with this time."

All of us as individuals, as families, as a congregation, as a nation, as a world, will be left forever changed by this year of the pandemic, and all of us, in different ways, have much to mourn. On the other hand, dear friends, as I've been teaching and preaching about quite a bit lately, the wisdom of the Scriptures also brings us great news of great joy amidst such difficulty. If you look at Leviticus 25, every fifty years in ancient Israel, a "Jubilee Year" was proclaimed and debts were paid, slaves were released from servitude, fields were allowed to lay fallow, land lost was returned to its ancestral owners and perhaps most importantly, the people rested, remembered what was important and recognized how God was present in their midst. As we approach the Nativity of Our Lord, it's important to remember when Mary sang her song of liberation, she in part recognized that the spirit of the Jubilee Year was present in the Christ Child as well!

So, siblings in faith, reflecting the wisdom of Kitty O'Meara, the Scriptures teachings on the Jubilee Year and Mary's song of praise for the Christ Child, know God is at work in all this difficulty, calling us to rest, to remember and to dream of all the many ways God is at work in our midst, bringing hope, love and liberation in the year ahead.

In faith,
Pastor Dustin



GRATITUDE ADVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 ONE GOOD THING THAT HAPPENED TODAY	30 MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION	1 AN OPPORTUNITY I'M GRATEFUL FOR	2 MY GUILTY PLEASURE	3 AN ITEM I TREASURE MOST	4 MY FAVORITE SONG	5 A PLACE THAT GIVES ME PEACE
6 MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY TREAT	7 MY FAVORITE PART OF NATURE	8 HOW WAS SOMEONE KIND TO YOU TODAY	9 PERSON I'M GLAD TO HAVE IN MY LIFE	10 MY FAVORITE QUOTE	11 A STORY THAT MAKES ME SMILE	12 MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT MESSIAH
13 MY FAVORITE PART OF MY LIVING SPACE	14 A POST-COVID EVENT I AM EXCITED ABOUT	15 MY FAVORITE MOVIE	16 A LIFE LESSON I'VE LEARNED	17 A NEW/OLD HOBBY	18 HOW WAS I KIND TO SOMEONE TODAY	19 A PICTURE OF A PLACE YOU SEE GOD
20 MY FAVORITE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE	21 A PERSON THAT INSPIRES ME	22 A FREEDOM I'M GRATEFUL FOR	23 AN ACCOMPLISHMENT I'M PROUD OF	24 SOME THING I FIND COMFORT IN	25 A PICTURE THAT SYMBOLIZES YOUR HOLIDAY	

**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

To help get to know one another, we are going to be posting pictures that correspond with our Gratitude Advent Calendar on our [Prayer at Messiah Facebook group](#). Please join us!

Introducing: Fall Class of 2020



Rebecca, Matt, & Clark Bliss



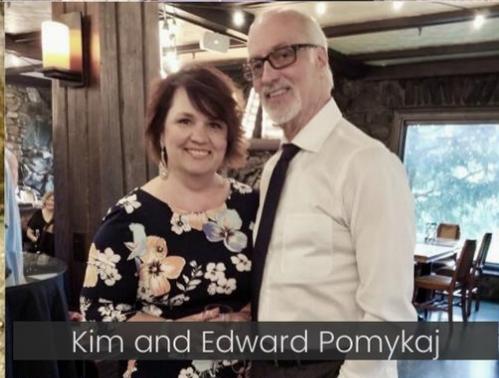
Ray Smith & Barbara Quackenbush



Kimlee Marquise & Tracy Shepherd



Krista Russo (with spouse Emily)



Kim and Edward Pomykaj



Amy Roach (with spouse Scott)



Nancy Stuebner



Dave & Andrew Stuebner



Gladys Cath and daughter Sheri Lamb



Lisa Johnson



Michael Mitchel (pictured with Lily)

Congratulations!

Prayer List

Please pray for: Our members: Bill Becker, Tammi Crowther, John & Dotty Diegel, Lore Ellis, Rianne Johnson, Barb Sandmeyer, Ed & Laura Underkoffler, Jacob Veerasammy **Our friends and family:** The Bloomquist Family, Bill Brust, Chris Canova, 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, Haley Thompson, Nyia Thompson, 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 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!

November/December Birthdays

Clark Bliss November 6th
 Gianna Lopez November 7th
 Mariann DiPiazza November 8th
 Owen Jordan November 8th
 Kristie Becker November 10th
 Christine DeMento November 20th
 Marge Reynheer November 22nd
 Faleema Veerasammy November 22nd
 Michael Jones November 25th
 Charlene Aldi November 26th
 Gladys Cath November 27th
 Josh Carroll November 29th
 Tyler Jones December 1st
 Amaya DiGiovanni December 3rd
 Rich Stigberg December 5th
 Cam Jacobs December 9th
 Justin Larrabee December 10th
 Harley Crowther December 11th
 Hanna Avery December 12th
 David Baumler December 12th
 Mary Davis December 14th
 Eric Telfeyan December 22nd
 Sereniety Jones December 27th
 Karen Kreisler December 30th
 Sarah DeTeso December 31st

December Anniversaries

Dave & Marilyn Barnett December 18th
 Paul & Allison Bode December 23rd

Readings for November/December

November 22nd

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
 Matthew 25:31-46

November 29th

Isaiah 64:1-9
 Mark 13:24-37

December 6th

Isaiah 40:1-11
 Mark 1:1-8

December 13th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20th

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Luke 1:26-38

December 24th

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 27th

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
 Luke 2:22-40

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

November/December 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 8:45am Adult Ed. 9am Global Prayer for Climate Action 10:15am Worship 12pm Sunday School	23 Pastor on Vacation 5pm Food Pantry	24 -----	25 -----	26 -----	27 -----	28 ----- 9am Food Pantry
29 8:45am Adult Ed. 10:15am Worship	30 6pm Feast of St. Andrew	1 10am Staff Mtg. 7pm SICM Mtg.	2 1pm Care & Concern 7pm Advent Compline	3 6pm Community Meditation	4	5
6 8:45am Adult Ed. 10:15am Worship 12pm Sunday School 5pm The Meaning of Christmas 6pm Christmas Concert	7 7pm Worship & Music Meeting	8 10am Staff Mtg. 1pm Executive Ministry Mtg. 6pm Stewardship Mtg.	9 7pm Advent Compline	10 Pastor on Vacation 6pm Community Meditation 6:30pm NAACP Meeting	11 -----	12 -----
13 8:45am Adult Ed. 10:15am Worship 12pm Sunday School 4pm Nominating Committee 6pm Confirmation Class	14	15 10am Staff Mtg.	16 7pm Advent Compline	17 6pm Community Meditation	18	19
20 8:45am Adult Ed. 10:15am Worship 12pm Sunday School 6pm Confirmation Class	21 9am Food Pantry 7pm Council	22 10am Staff Mtg.	23 7pm Advent Compline	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Pastor Vacation	26 ----- 9am Food Pantry
27 ----- 10:15am Lessons & Carols 12pm Sunday School	28 ----- 5pm Food Pantry	29 -----	30 -----	31 -----	1 -----	2 -----

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: Suzanne Collins

Secretary: Karen Keenan

Financial Secretary: Penny Incitti

Treasurer: René Dunda-Martin (with Phil Bazicki & Dave Barnett assisting)

Congregation Council

Name	Phone	Email Address	Term	Ministry Team Liaison
Suzanne Collins	518.605.2171 (m)	scollins@nycap.rr.com	18-21	Vice President
Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (m)	jonesp714@gmail.com	18-21	President, Social Action
Anne Marie Gray	518.577.0812 (m)	runnergirl6221@gmail.com	18-21	Stewardship Liaison
Steve Friebel	518.451.0628 (m)	sfbandit33@gmail.com	19-22	Fellowship Liaison
René Dunda-Martin	607.228.7771 (m)	drne51@yahoo.com	19-22	Treasurer
Phil Bazicki	518.355.0490 (m)	pcbkm@earthlink.net	19-22	Assistant Treasurer
Carly DiSanto	518.368.5293 (m)	gramy711@aol.com	20-23	Faith Formation Liaison
Karen Keenan	518.788.7614 (m)	karenekeenan@gmail.com	20-23	Secretary
Joyce Gresham	518.258.0574 (m)	rjg301@aol.com	20-23	Worship & Music Liaison
Dustin Wright	603.953.8782 (m)	pastor@messiahschenectady.org	N/A	N/A

Staff

Rianne Johnson, Parish Administrator: office@messiahschenectady.org

Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck, Interim Parish Musician

Nicole Hamilton, Sexton: drumrhc19@yahoo.com

Ministry Team Chairs, Organization Chairs and Other Appointed Leaders

Ministry Team / Committee	Coordinator / Chair(s)	Phone	Email Address
Social Action Team	Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (m)	jonesp714@gmail.com
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	Betsy Ryan	518.847.6111 (m)	qwilll@yahoo.com

Faith Formation Team	Ibrahím Pedriñán	320.444.5655 (m)	ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.com
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	Allison Bode (Cradle) VACANT (Nursery)	518.377.9213 (h) VACANT	allisonbode64@gmail.com VACANT
Youth	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Camp Calumet	Kristen Olochnowicz	518.378.0756 (m)	krispeno@gmail.com
Fellowship Team	Pastor Dustin	603.953.8782	pastor@messiaschenectady.org
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	Barb Hallett	518.356.3491 (h)	squeaky7762@aol.com
Welcome	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Arts & Culture	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Stewardship Team	Penny Incitti	518.461.5499 (m)	pennyincitti@gmail.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	VACANT Charlie Zitzmann	VACANT 518.366.0150 (m)	VACANT zitzmann1@aol.com
Audit	Neal Fisher	518.355.5193 (h)	nfisher1@nycap.rr.com
Mission Support	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Archives	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Synod & Conference Assembly Delegates			
Safe Church	Pamella Ford Ernie Incitti	917.414.9790 (h) ernieincitti@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
Worship & Music Team	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
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

Pastor

Rev. Dustin G. Wright

Parish Administrator

Rianne Johnson

Home Office Hours:

Wednesdays 11am-3pm

Thursdays 10am-6pm

Fridays 11am-3pm

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