

The Messenger

A monthly publication from our Spirit filled church.

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We are a Spirit filled church following Jesus Christ.

The Month Ahead

**Faith Formation Class:
"Manna and Mercy"
Wednesdays
from 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

The new Adult Faith Formation Class will provide an overview of the Bible along with opportunities to explore: (1) how Christians may develop a framework for reflecting on pressing moral and social issues; and (2) how Christians may interpret and respond to issues related to diversity as we encounter, for example, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) persons and others from the multitude of ethnic and racial backgrounds present in our community. The

text will be made available, one chapter at a time, throughout the course. *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe* was written by the Rev. Daniel Erlander, the author of an earlier book, *Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life*, we used last year. Like the earlier book, *Manna and Mercy* has drawings, cartoons, and brief summaries in each chapter, which make it accessible to persons who have not previously studied the Bible in a disciplined way, while also challenging those who have been deeply immersed in the Bible for many years. In his introduction, Pastor Erlander

sets the tone for this study: "I am convinced that authentic God-talk can take place only in the context of trembling, laughing at oneself, praying for forgiveness, and understand that words never capture the reality to which they point... It is my desire that this booklet will be one call among many for a whole new way of thinking." Please join us as we explore together how God continues to be present and active in human history and in all of creation.

**Sunday School Book Fair
Sunday, October 2nd, 9th,
16th, and 23rd**

Our church is having a Book Fair! Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for your kids or

grandkids? Stop by our Book Fair and shop award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for babies to twelve-year-olds. Save up to 40% PLUS free shipping on all Book Fair titles.

Stop by the Narthex on the Sundays from October 3rd through the 23rd to get faith-filled books and videos for your kids.

Our Book Fair, sponsored by Sparkhouse Family, will feature a wide variety of new resources based on the beloved Spark Story Bible, including a family devotional, a collection of prayers for kids based on the Psalms, a picture book about Noah's Ark, the first-ever animated Spark video (starring Squiggles the caterpillar!), and a new line of Spark Play and Learn Books to help make family faith formation easy and fun. Other noteworthy titles included in the upcoming Book Fair are a new Christmas picture book from the Frolic series and a gorgeous Advent pop-up book that will make a delightful gift. Each book and video is designed to help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage.

Blessing of the Animals Service
Sunday, October 2nd at
4:00pm

Calling all dogs, cats, fish, turtles, lizards (with leashes and their owners, of course!) to our second annual Blessing of the Animals Service! Set on the commemoration day for Saint

Francis of Assisi, known as the patron saint for animals, this brief, fun and contemporary service will be a great way to celebrate all those pets who provide so much joy and support in our lives. Worship will be weather permitting, held outside. Messiah's own Willie Bear will serve alongside Pastor Dustin as Worship Deacon.

Worship & Music Committee
Meeting
Monday, October 3rd at
7:00pm

At our next monthly conversation about worship and music at Messiah we'll discuss how to strengthen our committee's work based on lessons learned at our recent Leadership Retreat, continue crafting the launch of our Sunday evening Coffeehouse Worship Service and more. Please join us, and if you have any questions, speak with Pastor Dustin.

SICM Monthly Assembly
Tuesday, October 4th at
6:45pm
at Mount Olivet Missionary
Baptist Church

As part of the lead up to Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM)'s SICM@50 50th Anniversary Revisioning Process, we'll spend this month's assembly talking about (and provide training for) moving beyond simply charity work towards doing faith-based advocacy work. Joe Papparone of the [FOCUS Churches of Albany](#) and the [Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State](#) will

lead a workshop on ways to start congregation-based advocacy programs and SICM Steering Committee Member Marsha Mortimer will share how she's working to increase civic participation particularly in Historic Black Churches. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please speak with SICM Delegates Betsy Ryan and Nancy Stellrecht.

Sunday School Project Day
Sunday, October 9th at
9:00am

We will be having a special project for all the Sunday school students on October 9th. Our project will focus on how our Diversity makes us all Special in Gods eyes! We would love it if the parents can make it along with their kids for this special day!

Walk for Education
Tuesday, October 11th at
6:00am & 1:00pm
Emanuel-Friedens Church &
the NYS Capitol

October 2016 is the ten-year anniversary of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court decision which ruled that New York State was systematically underfunding urban and rural low-income school systems, particularly in a way that effects young students of color. Despite this landmark ruling, little has changed in the past decade... Schenectady's school children receive \$55 million less than they should each and every year! A number of Messiah's own children attend Schenectady City Schools and we have a

number of teachers who have experience working in the district as well.

So, Pastor Dustin, along with Rev. Horace Sanders of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Rev. Peter Carman of Emanuel-Friedens Church and many others will be joining a state-wide movement to walk to the State Capitol Building in Albany for a rally on October 11th. If you'd like to join the walk with Pastor Dustin, we'll be leaving Emanuel-Friedens around 6:00am. If you'd simply like to join the rally at the capitol, please meet us there at 6:00pm! If you have any questions or would like to support this important movement in other ways, please speak with Pastor Dustin or check out the related [Facebook Event](#).

**The Generosity Project
Saturday, October 15th
from 9:00am - 1:30pm**

Messiah is hosting a program of the Upstate New York Synod called "The Generosity Project," a lively, fun Saturday morning interactive experience for all ages. During the experience participants will explore attitudes and behaviors around money; earning, saving, spending and sharing. Drawing on our Lutheran roots, this event equips leaders of all ages to share how generosity is an important part of who we are as baptized children of God and followers of Jesus.

Here's the thing, we'll need 5 - 7 members of all ages from

Messiah present, along with similar sized groups from other nearby Lutheran congregations, to make this event a success. If you're interested, please sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex ASAP, and if you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

**Healing Service
Sunday, October 16th at
10:15am**

Please join us for our biannual Healing Service! Pastor Dustin along with Deacon Tom Collins, will be available for prayer, anointing and the laying on of hands, one of the most ancient of Christian traditions. Come hear the good news of Christ's healing love!

**Worship Leader Mini-Retreat
Sunday, October 16th
Immediately Following
Worship**

Can you picture what a Sunday Service would be like if none of the essential worship leaders showed up? Needless to say, Pastor Dustin would be quite lonely up on the Altar and the service would be VERY different! That said, on Sunday, October 16th all those currently serving as worship deacons, crucifers, acolytes, ushers, altar guild, greeters, announcers, nursery care and bread bakers, plus any and all of you who are interested in serving or would like to learn more about these positions are invited to an approximately 1-hour tutorial immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service. Youth having recently made their 1st

Communion can begin serving as acolytes. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. For more information, contact Pastor Dustin or Jill Becker. More hands make scheduling much easier!

**Youth & Family Double M
Haunted Hayride
Sunday, October 16th at
6:00pm**

Back by popular demand, our middle and high school age youth and their families are invited to join us for our annual fall trip to Double M Haunted Hayride in Ballston Spa. In addition to the hayride itself, other haunted attractions include The Last Inn, The Museum of Horrors, The Schadenfreude Circus and of course our host Scary Harry! Due to the generous support of our congregation, the cost will only be \$10 per participant! Tasty spooky snacks will also be covered by the congregation. Youth from other nearby ELCA congregations are also invited to attend. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex and if you have any questions, speak with Pastor Dustin.

**Fall 2016 Hudson Mohawk
Conference Assembly
Sunday, October 23rd at
2:30pm**

As members of Messiah we're also members of the Hudson Mohawk Conference of ELCA congregations. For the first time in many years our Spirit filled community will be hosting the biannual assembly of this conference. It'll be a fasc-

inating experience and great time to join other Lutherans in the area to discuss how we can minister and serve our communities together. The assembly will even conclude with a special presentation of Holden Evening Prayer by Mr. Doug and our incredible choir. All are welcome to join us, but please RSVP on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**Newsletter Articles Due
October 24th at 9:00am!**

In order to successfully publish our monthly newsletter in a timely manner, please try to get all newsletter articles in by Monday, October 24th at 9:00am. Reminder emails will be sent out during the week of October 17th.

**Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 26th at
7:00pm**

Wow... there's a lot we're working on to improve our facilities here at Messiah! After successfully finishing up our major 2016 Capital Improvement Plan this fall, we're currently laying out plans to improve our Nursery and Sunday School facilities, so without a doubt, we need your perspective! Please join us!

**Newsletter Released
Wednesday, October 26th**

**Consecration Sunday
Sunday, October 30th at
10:15am**

Be sure to check our 2016 Stewardship Campaign article for more details, but this is the Sunday every year where we prayerfully discern as a Spirit

filled congregation how God might be calling us to dedicate our time, talents and financial resources to the many ministries at Messiah. Every congregation member should have received an RSVP card that you're invited to return to the office as soon as possible. It's important to have an accurate count of the number of people attending that day as we'll be treated to an incredible luncheon catered once again by Little John's BBQ. Please join us!

**Young Adult Group
Meal/Discussion
Sunday, October 30th at 5pm
(Tentative)**

Are you between the ages of 17 and 30-something and would love to help Messiah's Young Adult Group transform into something with a little more "meaning?" Perhaps you haven't attended any previous Young Adult Group meetings but you've been curious? Bring a side dish, a brain full of awesome opinions and ideas, and let's start a discussion about where we'd like to see our group go. Some planned discussion topics are leadership, communication, volunteerism/service, and advocacy. Please check our page on Facebook for an event posting in the next week! If you're not a fan of using Facebook, please don't hesitate to contact Rianne or Pastor Dustin. We would absolutely love to see you there.

**Fall Cleanup Day
Saturday, November 5th at
9:00am**

Wow, we need your help to clean up after an incredible summer of ministry and get our facilities ready for colder weather. Projects will include raking, clearing gutters and continuing our work of refurbishing our Nursery and Sunday School facilities. A sign-up sheet will be up on the bulletin board soon!

**All Saints Day
November 6th at 10:15am**

Each year on All Saints Day we remember our friends and loved ones who are no longer with us. On November 6th during a special time in the worship service we invite you and/or your family to come forward with a votive candle (which we will provide) and place it on the table in front of the altar. A sheet will be on the bulletin board to list those loved ones who have passed away since last All Saints Day. The names of those individuals will be read during the prayer and a special candle will be lit in their memory. If you have any questions, please see Jill Becker.

**Fall 2016 New Member Class
Sunday, November 6th
immediately following worship**

So maybe you're someone who's starting coming to our Spirit filled community in recent months and at this point you're starting to think, "Hey, maybe I've found my spiritual home here!" If that's describes your situation, then wow, please join

us for our Fall 2016 New Member Class! We'll go over some basic tenets of Lutheranism, provide information about our Spirit filled congregation and help you figure out how to more deeply connect to God and the community here at Messiah. If you're interested in joining the seven incredible folks who have already expressed interest in membership so far, please speak with Pastor Dustin. There will also be a New Member Dinner on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30pm with folks being welcomed in as full members the following Sunday during worship on November 13th.

**Violin Recital: Nathan Lawrence and Charles Powers
Saturday, November 12th at
6:00pm**

Come share music with violinist Nathan Lawrence and pianist/organist Charles Powers at 6:00pm on Saturday, November 12! They will play a violin recital in the Messiah Sanctuary.

Nate and Charles will play standard works by Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. In addition, we will have a gypsy song by Spanish Romantic composer Pablo de Sarasate, a dreamy Romantic song by Gabriel Faure, Funderburk's "What Wondrous Love is This", and Prokofiev's "Tales of the Old Grandmother".

These fellows nailed this recital in a May performance at Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Schenectady. Hear-

ing them at Messiah with Mr. Doug's amazing piano will be a real treat!

We will not charge admission. Free-will offerings will benefit music programs at a local school and the organ restoration fund at Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian.

Nathan Lawrence began studying music at the age of six, taking piano lessons under the instruction of his grandmother. He received his first violin lessons from Tim Shackelton and Camille Grace of Cobleskill when he was nearly eleven and later studied extensively with Michael Emery. He has studied with Erick Friedman, Katie Lansdale, and Nicholas Mann. Nathan holds a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance from Houghton College where he studied with violinist Ellen Rathjen. Since 1990, Nathan has been a freelance violinist throughout eastern New York. He has appeared as soloist with the Glens Falls Symphony, the Empire State Youth Orchestra and the Houghton Philharmonia. Since 2002 he has been string teacher and conductor of the orchestras at Goff Middle School in the East Greenbush Central School District.

In his spare time, Nathan applies his artistic penchant for perfection to creating audio and video recordings for well-known musical organizations in the Capital District and beyond. The name of his business

is AudioArt. Nathan resides in Cobleskill with his wife Stephanie and their five children, at least one of whom already displays notable musical talents of his own! See you there!

**God's Work, Our Hands:
Concerned for the Hungry
Saturday, November 19th 9:30-
3:00pm (or any time after
10am)**

**Keane Elementary School,
1252 Albany St, Schenectady,
NY 12304**

ELCA congregations nationwide have been participating in "God's Work. Our Hands." during these last couple of months. On Saturday, November 19th from 9:30-3:00pm we will serve our neighbors at Concerned for the Hungry and help them assemble Thanksgiving baskets. This will serve as an opportunity for us to explore one of the greatest Lutheran convictions: "that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

We will have 4 stations with 4 people at each station. Station workers will be volunteering from 9:30-3:00. Others may volunteer to push carts to collect the food and give as much time as they wish beginning at 10:00am. A signup sheet is in the narthex; if you are interested, please write down your name, available times, and phone number so that we may contact you. We would love for all to join us! For more infor-

mation, please contact Judy Becker or Pete Jones.

**2017 Youth Leadership
Conference at the United
Nations**

**Monday, February 20th -
Wednesday, February 22nd**

The New York State Council of Churches (of which Pastor Dustin was recently elected President) is sponsoring a leadership forum for high school youth at the United Nations. The seminar is designed to equip youth to be advocates for change and help them learn about how faith inspires young people to pursue justice globally and locally. We've seen great success in supporting our young adults in various forms of leadership development thus far at Messiah, so now it's time to support our high school youth in becoming a new generation of leaders as well! The cost of the entire event is \$400 per participant, which covers lodging, travel by chartered bus, two lunches and one breakfast. Youth can choose to join the group for a Broadway show and dinner in Times Square on Tuesday night as well, which will be an additional charge. By starting now however, we can support our young people through a variety of fundraising efforts at Messiah and elsewhere. If you're interested, please speak with Pastor Dustin or sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex by November 13th.

News You Can Use

**Coffeehouse Worship:
Recharge for the Week Ahead
begins this January!**

After months of discussion and many experiments, our Worship & Music Committee, along with Mr. Doug and Pastor Dustin, have decided to launch a second regular worship service on Sunday evenings called Coffeehouse Worship: Recharge for the Week Ahead! Throughout 2017 worship will be held at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall on the second Sunday of the month, beginning on January 8th. The service will be a fun, contemporary and meditative experience in a coffeehouse atmosphere. If you're interested in assisting with this service, please speak with Mr. Doug or Pastor Dustin.

**Next Steps following Our
Leadership Weekend**

We had a very successful Leadership Weekend during the month of September. Rev. Norma Malfatti and Deacon Tom Collins of the Upstate New York Synod both joined us to talk about various leadership skills on Saturday and Pastor Norma stayed with us to preach and help lead worship on Sunday! Our Stewardship Committee has already identified a variety of next steps to continue building leadership capacity at Messiah, most notably by holding a spring Stewardship Campaign focused specifically around identifying the talents God has gifted each and every member of Messiah. We'll be

holding this campaign throughout the season of Easter with a major event culminating on Pentecost, the birthday of the church, on Sunday, June 4th. Be sure to stay tuned for more details!

**Messiah Enters the Reconciling
in Christ (RIC) Process**

Following the urging of many members of our Spirit filled community, particularly after this past summer's nightclub shootings in Orlando, our Congregation Council at its September meeting unanimously voted (with two members absent) to enter into the [Reconciling in Christ \(RIC\) Process](#).

RIC is process through which ELCA congregations can take a deep, prayerful and Biblically-based look at which groups of individuals they can better welcome into their community, with a specific focus on the LGBT community. At some point, after these issues are thoroughly discussed and all voices are heard, the congregation will vote to officially adopt an RIC statement. There is currently a diverse group of Messiah members forming to help guide our RIC process, and if you're interested in taking part or have any questions, please speak with Merle Longwood or Pastor Dustin.

**Confirmation Class is Growing
and Going Strong!**

Our four students and their parents have been hard at work learning about the New Testament through our new

colaborate curriculum from Sparkhouse. Based off of what we've learned about supporting young people through the Messiah Builds Leaders and SICM Summer Internship programs, our students are currently working on developing a Learning Covenant for the year ahead. Through this covenant, each student will identify a learning goal and furthermore brainstorm ways to achieve it. As part of this process, we're looking for non-related adult mentors for each of our confirmation students. If you'd like to find out more about serving as a mentor, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

Youth Group Update

There's a lot coming up for our middle & high school youth at Messiah! Our next event is our annual Haunted Hayride on October 16th and other events including another trip to Flight Trampoline Park, a service project day at the City Mission and a Murder Mystery Dinner are also in the works. Continuing our focus on building leadership capacity for folks of all ages in our Spirit filled congregation, there's also a fantastic opportunity sponsored by the New York State Council of Churches for our youth to join a Youth Leadership Forum at the United Nations from February 20th - 22nd. We hope a number of our youth can join us!

Social Action

This summer our Social Action committee met with a

nutritionist from Cooperative Extension and she gave us some ideas on how we could reach more families that are food insecure. After much discussion, we decided to open our food pantry 2 days a month: The 3rd Monday from 9-12 and the 4th Monday from 5-8. The clients will call to make an appointment previous to those days. Right now we are only taking 2 clients per day, as we see how much inventory we can provide for 4 clients a month.

Included is a list of the items that the food pantry uses frequently. This list is also posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board asking for volunteers on the days we are open. You may sign up for one hour or the whole shift; Whatever works for you. If you have any questions, please see or call Judy Becker at 374-5104 or Joyce Gresham at 355-5177.

This is such a wonderful service our congregation is providing and we could not do it without all the support you give, so we thank you, thank you, thank you.

Here is the list:

Pineapple, Apple Juice, Pears, Coffee (Reg. or Decaf), Peaches, Pancake Mix (complete), Corn (large and small cans), Cereal Boxes (Individual), Canned Chicken, Green Beans (small), Canned Ham, Stuffing, Manwich, Pasta Sides, Boxed Meals (Walmart), Boxed Mashed Potatoes (or pouch), Hamburger Helpers,

Stew, Mac & Cheese (individual), Canned Ravioli, Mayo, Fruit Snacks, Oil, Pudding, Shower Gel (Men & Women)

Care & Concern Update

Our second quarterly Glendale Pot Luck dinner was held on Sunday, September 18 and was a huge success! Five residents associated with our congregation were present along with eleven friends and family from Messiah, and of course, our church dog Willy Bear. Everybody enjoyed a great meal and meaningful fellowship. A big "Thank you" to Bill Ellis for all he did to help make this happen. We are looking forward to our next dinner which is planned for some time in January. We would love to have you attend this joyful event. Be on the lookout for more updates in December.

Five cards were sent out in September. If you know somebody who could use some cheering up, congratulations, sympathy, or a simple thinking of you card, please get in touch with Judy Becker or Betsy Ryan.

Our visits to shut-ins continue. This is very special to those we visit and to us as we visit. If you are interested in visiting with us, please see Pastor Dustin. You will find it a very rewarding experience.

Community Office Hours Tuesdays, 12:00pm - 2:00pm at Annabelle's Café

Want to meet up for some casual conversation over lunch or a cup of coffee? Have a faith question or need help planning a new ministry or event at Messiah? Join Pastor Dustin at the local favorite eatery of Messiah members, Annabelle's Café at 2621 Guilderland Avenue here in Rotterdam. He'll be available most Tuesdays from 12:00pm - 2:00pm, meeting with members of the congregation and our local neighbors alike. Be sure to stop by!

SICM Update

After being off for the summer, the SICM assembly recovered on September 6th. There was a review of Camp at Steinmetz Park. Various aspects were explained regarding the six theme weeks. Field trips were taken, which all enjoyed. The camp was a great success. The summer intern program was discussed and Amy DeMento's report was read to us. This was an example of what a positive experience the camp was to the interns as well as the campers.

Summer meals: A total of 86,136 lunches and breakfasts were served. There were 43 sites this year, 28 fixed (47,328 meals) and 15 mobile sites (38,808 breakfast and lunches).

The 50th anniversary of SICM is coming up in 2017. A special program, "Past as Prologue", showed an introduction to

SICM's upcoming anniversary; it included conversations with Rev. Jim Murphy and Rev. Dennis Meyer, who spoke first-hand of the early days of SICM. The idea was to connect the needs of the city with the resources of the church. We will look back at the past and view accomplishments and look forward to the next 50 years.

Dialogue to Change continues with adult study circles on the issue of "racism in a diverse nation".

For more information, please visit www.studyircles.org.

SICM's Food Pantry is still looking for volunteers. If interested call Shelly at 346-4445 to arrange volunteer training and orientation.

Our next Assembly meeting is Tuesday, Oct 4 at 6:45 PM at Mt. Olivet Church, Wendell Ave. All are welcome to attend. If interested, please see Nancy Stellrecht or Betsy Ryan.

90th Anniversary & Directory Update

The committee for updating the directory has been meeting on a regular basis and has decided on doing a pictorial directory. Rich Becker has graciously agreed to take the photos of all members. Be on the lookout for more information and a sign-up sheet with photo date/time slots. We are aiming for a completion and distribution date of Jan. 22, 2017 as we kick off our 90th anniversary year. The directory will not only

include addresses and phone numbers but also interesting historical information about the church.

WELCA

On September 20th at the WELCA Program meeting, our guest speaker was Pam Brucker who is the Director of Community Support Services from The Center for Community Justice in Schenectady. They are always in need of supplies and things for the children they are trying to help. A box will be set up in the entry if you would like to drop off some things from the following list: nail clippers, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, emery boards, gloves, mittens, socks, scarves, hats, soap, shampoo, conditioner, balls, dolls, games (such as Battleship, Boggle, Uno), blankets, some snacks, and juice boxes.

WELCA has several upcoming events: please be on the lookout for some more information about these events in the next few months! The next project meeting will be held on November 15th at 7:00pm. WELCA Pie Baking will be on November 18th at 9:00am. WELCA'S Christmas Party will be on December 20th at 6:30pm. Several more meetings are in store for 2017.

THANK YOU

The Becker and Olochnowicz families would like to thank everyone for their friendship, support and love during this rough time. Our prayers have definitely been answered and Bill is doing much better. we

are so very blessed to have all of you in our lives.

Grapevine News

Grace and Sarah Olochnowicz are learning how to be volunteers. They have worked in the food pantry over the summer and also the Summer Lunch Program. Kiersten Becker, a sophomore at Guilderland High School, made the varsity soccer team. She is a goalie. Kendra Lavenia, a sophomore at Schenectady High School, made the varsity volleyball team.

2016 Stewardship Campaign: "Two Are Better Than One"



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken. - Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our annual Congregational Priorities Survey this year! We had 39 responses that will help inform

both our priorities for the year ahead and the remainder of stewardship campaign as we journey towards **Consecration Sunday on October 30th**, the day all members of our Spirit filled community are urged to make a pledge of estimated financial support for our many ministries in 2017. This will in turn help us understand where we can make new investments during our budgeting process later this year.

Throughout October you'll hear from members who will speak to the following priorities we identified for 2017 from your survey responses:

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

If you have any questions about our 2016 Stewardship Campaign, please speak with Chair Beth Waugh or Financial Secretary Penny Incitti.

2016 Capital Improvement Project Update

With the recent removal of a moldy old wall to make way for new furnace venting in the parsonage basement (thanks Chip, John, Billy and Rich!), our 2016 Capital Improvement Project is nearly complete! With the strong leadership of our Property Committee and your generous support, we've done so, so much this year! Thank you! We've replaced a moldy bathroom and rusting furnace in the parsonage, insuring decades of quality housing for our pastors. Thank you! We've replaced landscaping damaged by last fall's water main break. Thank you! We've resealed our parking lot, insuring the safety of our members for years to come. Thank you! If you pledged to support the Capital Improvement Project, you should have recently received a letter reminding you about your pledge. As we've received only about half of the \$13,500 approved cost of the project in pledges and donations, please consider contributing to this project if you haven't already done so. Thank you so much for all you do!



OCTOBER MINISTER OF THE MONTH: Cheryl Borski

Congratulations to our October 2016 Minister of the Month, Cheryl Borski! Since taking on leadership of our children's programming as Sunday School Superintendent last spring, she's already made vast improvements to the program, including increasing our number of leaders, instituting special project Sundays, holding a leadership training weekend and organizing the upcoming Kid's Book Fair. She also actively participates in many of our Adult Education programming and has greatly assisted in our efforts to improve our Sunday School facilities, amongst many other ministries.



Cheryl lives in Duaneburg with her husband Max, daughter Hannah, her dog Bonnie and cat named Daisy. She works for Transtech Services in Schenectady and has been a lifelong member of Messiah Lutheran Church. She attended Cazenovia College and The College of Saint Rose where she received a degree in Graphic Design.

She enjoys arts and crafts and excels in drawing. She enjoys spending time with her family and is kept busy with Hannah's many extracurricular activities. She loves being a part of the Messiah Church family!

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER: Rianne Johnson



Have you ever heard the phrase "Don't let perfect be the enemy of good"? I'll be honest, I haven't up until a few minutes ago (what will be several hours for you, since I'm currently writing this at 1:00 in the morning) when I was looking stuff up on Google while procrastinating on a dozen or so tasks. The quote comes from a French philosopher guy named Francois-Marie Arouet; his pen-name was Voltaire. So why am I writing about this, what's the purpose? Throughout this past month I've discovered a few strengths and weaknesses of mine. My key weakness? Perfection. I strive day in and day out to be perfect. It's part of my personality, I guess. It also gives me a sense of control; it lets me stay on top of things. Perfectionism can be a great trait to have, but it can also become a double-edged sword if you don't have full control of it.

Perfectionism can get so out of hand that you procrastinate because you know that your work won't be good enough to meet your standards. If I was to not hand in a paper out of fear doing terribly and get an F, wouldn't any kind of effort be better? If I was to get a B+ would it really be the end of the world? Why am I trying to be a superhero when I'm just an ordinary human being? All of this thinking led me to realize that the only person holding myself to these high expectations are myself; I've been told that I'm doing a great job by a handful of people and have been thanked numerous times for all that I do. If I'm doing good, why let perfect get in the way of that? Besides, we're all already perfect in the eyes of God, aren't we? Be sure to check out my upcoming blog post on Messiah's website for my reflection on our Leadership Retreat, how some of my staff meetings have went, and the progress that I'm making on my learning covenant!

PRESIDING BISHOP'S LETTER: Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all (Martin Luther in Freedom of a Christian).

Wow, Lutherans love paradox! Law and gospel. Saint and sinner. Free and bound. David Swartling, former ELCA secretary, often noted that we are a “both and church” in an “either or world.”

This proclivity for paradox, or at least the recognition that this is part of the Lutheran tradition, was often cited as a strength during the churchwide conversation phase of Called Forward Together in Christ. For four months, synod assemblies, synod councils, the Conference of Bishops, the ELCA Church Council, ELCA ethnic associations, churchwide staff, the Faith Formation Network, individuals, agencies and institutions have been praying and considering together what might be God's priorities for the ELCA. It has been an engaged and energetic process.



Definite themes emerged all across this church. The next phase of the process will present these themes for consideration for all of us in the ELCA—once again in synods, congregations, agencies, colleges and universities, seminaries and at the Churchwide Assembly. Spoiler alert: I'm going to lift up two of the themes now. First, in describing what it means to be an ELCA Lutheran or in answering the question “What is God calling the ELCA to become?” we overwhelmingly answered “a diverse, inclusive, multicultural church.” In the settings where I led the conversation, I gently admonished pastors to let the laypeople speak so all of the baptized could be heard. Diversity was understood to be ethnic, economic and generational. We said congregations should reflect the communities in which they are planted. Marvelous! The second theme I will raise now is that the ELCA is constituted so there is very little enforceable accountability. ELCA members can decide to participate in the life of their congregation or not. Congregations can decide to participate in the life of the synod or greater church or not. Pastors can decide to be engaged beyond their congregations or not. Even synods and bishops are often caught between their specific contexts and participation in churchwide decisions.

We aren't bad people. The overwhelming majority of us don't intend to be oppositional. There are forces at play that exacerbate this lack of accountability. The first is cultural—American Christianity is congregational and the autonomy of the individual is darn near sacrosanct. This started long before the breakdown of trust of institutions in the 1960s and '70s. Church membership is understood as a voluntary association. One can opt in and out as one chooses. In the American context faith is a private affair. The second is that it took great sensitivity to care for the histories, politics and ecclesiologies of our predecessor church bodies (the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America) as the ELCA was being born. It was an enormously daring leap of faith to become the ELCA. I believe we are still working on trusting each other.

Our conversations in the Called Forward Together in Christ process show that we believe God is calling us to be a diverse and inclusive church. We need to be clear about our motivation. If it is a desire, no matter how well-intentioned or noble, to diversify the church, I don't believe God will bless our efforts. But, if it's our earnest desire to share the intimate and liberating love of Jesus, then we will have to hold each other accountable as we take the hard but holy steps to open up a 94 percent white church. Which brings me to the Luther quote at the beginning of this column. Faith is personal—God loves each one of us—but it is never private, nor is it lived apart from other Christians. In Christ we have been set free and in that perfect freedom we are subject and accountable to one another.

PASTOR'S LETTER: Rev. Dustin G. Wright



Moses' father-in-law said to him, 'What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. Now listen to me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You should represent the people before God, and you should bring their cases before God; teach them the statutes and instructions and make known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do. You should also look for able men among all the people, men who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain; set such men over them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Let them sit as judges for the people at all times; let them bring every important case to you, but decide every minor case themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they

will bear the burden with you. If you do this, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people will go to their home in peace.' - Exodus 18: 17 - 23

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

So we read the passage from Exodus above at the beginning of our recent Leadership Weekend, and without a doubt, we're in much the same place as a Spirit filled community as Moses was all those centuries ago. With the Holy Spirit moving us forward, we continue to rapidly grow in membership, programming and enthusiasm for ministry! That is so awesome! In the coming months however, particularly in the lead up to what we've identified as essentially a Time & Talent Stewardship Campaign in the season of Easter this spring, I'd urge you to prayerfully consider Moses' situation above. If you're already leading many things in our congregation, how can you better delegate and grow future leaders? If you've never taken the leadership of one of our ministries before, what might you be called to? In prayer, let us move forward into the amazing future God has in store for us!

God's peace,

Pastor Dustin

Prayer List

Our members: Bill Becker, Dave Ellis, Lore Ellis, Sue Force, Betty Friebel, Carol Jurewicz, Marion Lewis, Bob Reisinger, Zach Schaffer, Tom Town, Theo Wegner. **Our friends and family:** Ray Alvord, Kiki Axer, Bonnie Bianchi, Donna Biler, Maria Caruso, Deb Connelly, Ned Cornman, Nicholas, Michael Davis, Regina & Hudson Davis, Jamie DeCanio, Pat Disbrow Koch, Terri Dufeck, Brittany Ellers, Kathy Faina, Florence Friebel, Barb Hamlin, Dick King, Margit LaForest, Kathleen LaPointe, Victoria Lindman, Daryl Martin, Syliva MacFarlane, Marlene Morton, Will Morton, Carol Presley, Joe Ritzo, Alicia Rizzo, John Roberge, Hazel Rodriguez, Chris Sabatini, Nzinga Smith, Kay Snodgrass, Jordanne Unser, Carol Winnick, Michael Davis & Family. **Our loved ones serving our country and others:** Jason Maione, Ken Ryan, Tim Zakriski.

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

Messiah Birthdays

Maria Caruso	October 1st
Derrick Schultz	October 2nd
Sarah Olochnowicz	October 3rd
Mark Lavenia	October 4th
Billy Olochnowicz	October 4th
William Fleming	October 6th
Amanda Kernozek.....	October 7th
Sophie Mathis	October 8th
Grace Olochnowicz.....	October 12th
Ella Roether.....	October 13th
Doug Roether	October 19th
Derrick Schultz Jr.	October 19th
Merle Longwood.....	October 21st
William Snyder III.....	October 21st
MaryLynn Davis	October 22nd
Hilda Hoffstetter	October 23rd
Lexi Bascom	October 24th
Laurie Sefcovic	October 28th
Sue Force	October 30th
Gerald Hoffstetter	October 31st

Messiah Anniversaries

Christine & Joe Demento	October 3rd
Melissa & Marcus DiGiovanni.....	October 10th
Phil & Mary Davis.....	October 12th

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

Readings for October

October 2nd:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
 Psalm 37:1-9
 2 Timothy 1:1-14
 Luke 17:5-10

October 9th:

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
 Psalm 111
 2 Timothy 2:8-15
 Luke 17:11-19

October 16th:

Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 121
 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5
 Luke 18:1-8

October 23rd:

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
 Psalm 84:1-7
 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
 Luke 18:9-14

October 30th:

Isaiah 1:10-18
 Psalm 32:1-7
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
 Luke 19:1-10

Worship Assistants for October 2nd – November 6th

	October 2 nd	October 9 th	October 16 th	October 23 rd	October 30 th	November 6 th
Worship Deacon	Betsy Ryan	Susie Schaffer	Pamella Ford	Linda Klein	Kristen Olochnowicz	Betsy Ryan
Acolyte	Hannah Borski	Kyle Avery	Hannah Crowther	Hannah Borski	Kyle Avery	Hannah Crowther
Crucifer	Devin Hodoroski	Hanna Avery	Mark Lavenia	Olivia Tedford	Devin Hodoroski	Mark Lavenia
Lector	Brian Karrel	Linda Klein	Amaya DiGiovanni	Kristen Olochnowicz	Margaret Glennie	Rachel Mathis
Ushers	Amanda Avery Kyle Avery	Kendal Fleming Danielle Sefcovic	Beth Waugh Susie Schaffer	Amanda Avery Kyle Avery	Bill Becker John Diegel	Paul Bode John Crowther
Greeters	Beth Waugh Rianne Johnson	Rianne Johnson Cheryl Borski	Marilyn Barnett Needed	Carly DiSanto Rianne Johnson	Betty Friebel Barb Sandmeyer	Allison Bode Nancy Stellrecht
Altar Guild	Betsy Ryan Beth Waugh	Jill Becker Grace Olochnowicz	Dotty Diegel Sarah Olochnowicz	Pamella Ford Denise Larrabee	Joyce Gresham Barb Sandmeyer	Betsy Ryan Beth Waugh
Bread Baker	Jean Jones		The Karrel Family	Dotty Diegel		
Nursery	Diane Fisher Hanna Avery	Molly Karrel Amber Hodoroski	Kiersten Becker Vanessa Ford-Roether	Mark & Erica Lavenia	Melissa & Amaya DiGiovanni	Diane Fisher Hanna Avery
Announcer						

Your participation in these ministries essential to our life together in Spirit filled community are greatly appreciated!

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

Parish Calendar for October 2016

						1
2 9am Sunday School 10:15 Service 4pm Blessing of the Animals 4pm GS Troop 2068 6:30pm Confirmation Class	3 10am 90 th Anniversary Taskforce 2pm Food Provider's Network Meeting 6pm GS Troop 2260 7pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7pm Monday Evening Crafters 7:30pm Budget & Finance Conversation	4 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062 6:45pm SICM Assembly	5 7pm Adult Education	6	7	8
9 9am Sunday School (Special Project Day) 10:15 Service 6:30pm Confirmation Class	10 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	11 11am Book Discussion #1 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062 7pm Congregation Council	12 7pm Adult Education	13 5:30pm 4H Group	14	15 9:30am The Generosity Project 5pm Potluck & Movie Night
16 9am Sunday School 10:15 Healing Service 12pm Worship Leader Mini-Retreat 4pm GS Troop 2068 6pm Youth Trip Double M Haunted Hayrides	17 6pm GS Troop 2260 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	18 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062	19 7pm Adult Education	20	21	22 11am GS Troop 2431
23/30 9am Sunday School 10:15 Service 2:30pm (23rd) Fall Conference Assembly 12pm (30th) Consecration Sunday Luncheon 6:30pm Confirmation Class	24/31 (31st) Joint Ecumencial Commemoration of 499 th Anniversary of Reformation 7pm Monday Evening Crafters	25 11am Book Discussion #1 12pm Community Office Hours 6pm GS Troop 2062 7pm Book Discussion #2	26 7pm Adult Education 7pm Property Committee Meeting	27 5:30pm 4H Group	28	29

Community Leaders & Contacts

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

Church Officers (Executive Committee)

President: Charles Zitzmann

Vice-President: Joyce Gresham

Secretary: Stacey Hodoroski

Financial Secretary: Penny Incitti

Treasurers: Lisa Mell and Pete Jones

Pastor: Rev. Dustin Wright

Congregation Council

Name	Phone	Email Address	Term	Liaison Committee
Joyce Gresham	518.355.5177 (h)	rjg301@aol.com	'14 -'17	Social Action, Care & Concern, WELCA
Stacey Hodoroski	518.986.5998 (c)	shodoroski@hotmail.com	'14 -'17	Historian
Charles Zitzmann	518.366-0150 (c)	zitzmann1@aol.com	'14 -'17	Personnel, Men's Group
Penny Incitti	518.461.5499 (c)	pennyincitti@gmail.com	'15 -'18	Stewardship, Outreach
Brian Karrel	518.488.7945 (c)	bkarrel@stuyvesantplaza.com	'15 -'18	Property
Paul Bode	518.377.9213 (h)	pbode69@gmail.com	'15 -'18	Kitchen
Lisa Mell	518.355.0942 (c)	mlisa942@gmail.com	'16 - '19	Budget & Finance
Merle Longwood	518.944.4475 (c)	longwood@siena.edu	'16 - '19	Faith Formation
Neal Fisher	518.355.5193 (c)	nfisher1@nycap.rr.com	'16 - '19	Budget & Finance

Staff

Rianne Johnson, Parish Administrator: office@messiahschenectady.org

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

Nicole Fatato, Sexton: drumrchic19@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs, Organization Chairs and Other Appointed Leaders

Committee / Position	Chair(s)	Phone	Email Address
Budget & Finance	Kristie Becker	518.469.4817 (c)	kristiebecker032801@gmail.com
Care & Concern	Betsy Ryan	518.847.6111 (c)	qwilll@yahoo.com
Co-Treasurer	Pete Jones	518.867.2489 (c) 518.370.3226 (h)	poppi62@verizon.net
Executive	Charles Zitzmann	518.366.0150 (c)	zitzmann1@aol.com
Faith Formation	Jean Jones	518.878.4412 (c) 518.370.3226 (h)	dodgerjones@yahoo.com
Historian	Susie Schaffer	518.813.0930 (c)	susanschaffer03@icloud.com
Kitchen	Rich Becker Karen Kreischer	518.461.0034 518.785.9723	richbecker2340@gmail.com no email
Mighty Men of Messiah	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
Outreach	Molly Karrel	518.878.9338 (c)	relyeam@hotmail.com
Personnel	Pamella Ford	917.414.9790 (h)	pfordny@aol.com
Property	Rich Stigberg VACANT	518.895.8137 (c) VACANT	dickiestiggs@hotmail.com VACANT
SICM Delegates	Nancy Stellrecht Betsy Ryan	518.630.5299 (c) 518.847.6111 (c)	nancywestervelt@yahoo.com qwilll@yahoo.com
Social Action	Judy Becker	518.374.5104 (h)	wbecker001@nycap.rr.com
Stewardship	Beth Waugh	518.381.8967 (h)	blwaugh@juno.com
Sunday School Superintendent	Cheryl Borski	518.429.6955 (c)	cborski@transtechsys.com
WELCA	Jill Becker	518.357.9875 (c)	jb@hrfmlaw.com
Worship & Music	Pastor Dustin	603.953.8782 (c)	pastor@messiahschenectady.org
Young Adults	Rianne Johnson	518.925.0819 (c)	houseofcards93@gmail.com

We are looking to expand our leadership at Messiah. If you would like to take any of the vacant positions listed above, please speak with Charlie Zitzmann or Pastor Dustin.

Messiah Lutheran Church
2850 Guilderland Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306

www.messiahschenectady.org

Pastor

Rev. Dustin G. Wright

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 10a -1p

Parish Administrator

Rianne Johnson

Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. 10a - 4p

Council President

Charles Zitzmann



Messiah Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our mission is to be a Spirit filled church following Jesus Christ.

We will welcome all people into our fellowship so that we may all worship, praise, sing together and learn from one another. With Jesus as our example we will spread the Word of God.

Please join us for Sunday Worship at 9:30am.