

# 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

**World Communion Sunday**  
**Sunday, October 6th at**  
**10:15am**

Gosh, this is a really big Sunday in the life of our Spirit filled congregation, and we need everyone there! Since 1933, many Christian denominations throughout the world have been celebrating World Communion Sunday (or Global Church Sunday as it's known in the ELCA). The whole emphasis is on how the Table, Holy Communion, brings us all together across the world throughout time and space to stand in unity and serve our neighbors. Living amidst such divisive times, the unity of Christ's Table is more important

to emphasize than ever and one way we're doing just that is by jointly worshiping with our siblings in Christ from Trinity Reformed Church! The service will look a bit, but not all that different and will include a wide variety of prayers for unity. Pastor Dustin will be preaching while Pastor Jonathan from Trinity Reformed will be presiding. Following worship, we'll hold a very special reception that will provide an opportunity for us and our neighbors at Trinity to get to know one another. Please join us, on World Communion Sunday, to stand in unity around Christ's table!

## Creation Appreciation Hikes Beginning

**Every Sunday, Beginning**  
**Sunday, October 6th at 2:00pm**

This fall we will be doing the ECOS Seven Preserve Challenge. Explore Seven beautiful local nature preserves this fall with ECOS guides. Once you've visited all seven preserves – with ECOS or on your own – complete the Seven Preserve Challenge form and receive your free patch. All walks will be on Sundays at 2pm and will last 60-90 minutes. They're suitable for all ages – bring the kids! Wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather. If you're interested, call Jean Jones for carpool info at 518-878-4412. The listing of all

hikes is on the fellowship (main large one) bulletin board in the narthex.

**Blessing of the Animals  
Sunday, October 6th at  
5:00pm**

Calling all dogs, cats, fish, turtles, lizards (with leashes and their owners, of course!) to our fourth annual Blessing of the Animals Service! Set near 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 Parish Dog, Willard Excelsior Bear, will serve alongside Pastor Dustin as Assisting Minister as we gather together to conclude the Season of Creation!

**Coffee Club III: Dialogues on  
Human Sexuality  
Continuing Tuesday, October  
8th at 10:00am**

Gosh... we've talked about how our faith affects our understanding of some pretty controversial topics at Messiah in recent years... from race to economics, immigration to climate change, we've generally been able to provide faithful spaces on the moral issues of the day! Outside of our Reconciling in Christ process a few years ago however, we've never had frank conversations about a big one... sex, but we're changing that this fall! Using a new series from the ELCA meant to "transform



conflict into community" called Dialogues On..., we'll tackle a wide variety of topics from sexism to marriage to transgender issues. A faithful and healthy understanding of human sexuality affects so much, from our own personal lives to how we raise our children to the standards we have for our leaders, so please join this important conversation! A \$15 contribution is encouraged to defer book costs, although certainly not required!

**Wold Lecture on Religion and  
Conflict: Responding to  
Climate Change  
Wednesday, October 9th at  
5:30pm  
The Nott Memorial at Union  
College  
807 Union Street  
in Schenectady, New York**

The Religious Studies Program at Union College is pleased to announce that this year's Wold Lecture on Religion and Conflict. The lecturer is Prof. J.G. Manning from Yale

University and his topic is "Apocalypse Now! Prophecy, Climate Change and the Role of Religion in Coping with Disaster in Ancient Societies". Professor Manning is Professor in Classics and History (with appointments in both the Classics and History Departments), Senior Research Fellow in the Law School, and holds a secondary appointment in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale. He has published important studies on the ancient state, ancient law, and the ancient economy. Over the past few years he has turned his attention to environmental history, collaborating with climate scientists to investigate the impact of past climate changes on societies.

### Schenectady Environmental Sustainability Networking Forum

Thursday, October 10th from  
8:30am - 5:00pm

First Reformed Church of  
Schenectady  
8 North Church Street in  
Schenectady, New York

The purpose of this forum is to bring together organizations with a stake in sustaining Schenectady County's environmental, social, economic, and cultural resources. More information regarding the schedule of events will be provided shortly. If you are interested in attending make sure to [RSVP on Eventbrite](#). The event will include breakout sessions, green friendly food and great networking opportunities!

### Community Meditation Hour Thursdays every other week at 6:00pm continuing October 10<sup>th</sup>

As an experiment a few months back we held a community meditation hour where folks gathered together, participated in a beautiful guided meditation session and then just spent time quietly talking about their week together. With such a positive response, we've decided to begin holding community meditation hours every other week before choir practice. Sessions will often be led by Steve Friebel using a wonderful meditation from Al-Anon, but Pastor Dustin and others may often lead the sessions as well. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin or Steve Friebel.



### Bread for the World Sunday Sunday, October 13th at 10:15am

Bread for the World Sunday is an opportunity for Messiah to join with other people of faith in thousands of churches across the country in living out God's vision of a world without hunger. Through our prayers for an end to hunger and letters to our nation's leaders we can give bold witness to God's justice and mercy in the world. Worship will include special prayers lifting up our hungry neighbors and we'll take a special offering of non-perishable goods for our Bread of Life Food Pantry. After worship we'll gather together to write our elected leaders about improving government policies towards ending the scourge of hunger in our nation once and for all.

### Presentation on the History of US Waste and Recycling Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm & Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

#### Albany Public Library

Neil Seldman, a nationally recognized authority on municipal waste reduction, will be visiting the Capital Region. Some topics discussed will be on new federal and local laws, grass roots recycling, restructuring of solid waste management systems, and key issues to address in our region. If you would like to carpool, please contact Jean Jones at 518-878-4412!

**"Dear Church" Monthly Book Club**  
**Tuesday, October 15th at 7:00pm**

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 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 attenders are encouraged to order their own books. If you have any questions, please speak with Faith Formation Chair Ibrahím Pedriñan! You can sign up on [Realm](#) to help give us an idea of how many people will be showing up, but it's not mandatory!

**55 and Over Outing: Lunch at Maxons!**  
**2544 Guilderland Ave.**  
**Rotterdam, NY 12306**  
**Thursday, October 17th at 1:00pm**

Over the age of 55? Come on down to our next outing at Maxon's American Grill at 1pm – they're conveniently located only a minute away from Messiah and have tons of delicious food to choose from! Keep your eyes peeled for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and RSVP! For more information, please speak with Barb Hallett.

**Healing Service of Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, October 20th at 10:15am**

Building off the ancient Christian rituals of prayer, the laying on of hands and anointing, Healing Sunday is a time every year at Messiah around the commemoration day of Saint Luke the Physician where folks in need of God's healing in any aspect of their lives can be reminded that they are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Join us for a brief Order of Healing with Pastor Dustin and our synodically authorized ministers... all in the community are invited to join us!

**Youth Group Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 20th at 11:30am**

We're trying something new this year! All of our older youth are invited to hang out after church, have an awesome lunch together, elect leaders of our new youth group and begin brainstorming about new types of events and ministries they'd like to see at Messiah. During this convo they'll also interview some of our more senior members about old times as we begin to plan our 2019 Christmas Programme: "Back to the Future!" If you have any questions, please speak with Cheryl Borski and RSVP on [Realm](#) or on the Fellowship Board in the Narthex.

**SiCM Concert of Thanksgiving**  
**Sunday, October 20th at 3:00pm**

**First Reformed Church of Schenectady**  
**8 North Church Street in Schenectady, New York**

The Concert of Thanksgiving Returns! SiCM will be taking donations in the form of free will offerings and non-perishable items for the Emergency Food Pantry while hearing light classical repertory from Ticheli, Holst, Bruch, Strauss, and Herold. If you have any questions, please speak with SiCM Delegates Betsy Ryan and Nancy Stellrecht.

**Double M Haunted Hayride  
Youth Event  
Sunday, October 20th at  
6:45pm**

Join Messiah's middle and high school youth for a frightfully awesome night at our classic annual trip to the Double M Haunted Hayride! Check into the "dangerously insane" Last Inn! Watch the freaky side show known as the Schadenfreude Circus! Escape a zombie apocalypse! All for the cost of only \$10 per participant! Parents and friends are invited to attend as well! Just RSVP on the Fellowship board or on Realm by October 13th!

**Reformation Sunday  
Sunday, October 27th at  
10:15am**

Reformation Sunday 2019 looks to be the beginning of a very exciting year ahead! Many new things are happening, and it is hard to keep up with all of them. Our membership is growing, we may possibly merge with Trinity Reform Church, hopefully the accessibility portion of our Capital Campaign will begin and we will be updating our heating system. With our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan nearly complete and a new governance structure to streamline our many meetings, it is our hope that members will involve themselves more with all that needs to be done in order to sustain our ministries and prepare for future growth. Throughout the month of October members of Messiah will give very special temple

talks explaining all that we're planning for the future!

As part of that work on Reformation Sunday, the annual event where we celebrate the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit and the beginnings of the Lutheran movement, we are asking members to consider making a financial pledge that will help our Budget & Finance Team create a realistic budget for 2020. RSVP slips are available in the narthex and were enclosed in the September 29th letter you received at church or in the mail. Please consider making a pledge, no amount is too small! As it says in 1 Corinthians 12:14, "For the body is not one member, but many," we are strongest at Messiah when working together in unity!

There will be a celebration after the service where Little John's BBQ will once again be preparing meals for all those who attend. It is imperative that you return your RSVP card by Sunday, October 20th so the correct number of meals can be ordered. Please leave it in the office in the Stewardship mailbox or drop it in the collection basket at any time! If you have any questions, please contact Stewardship Chair Penny Incitti at pennyincitti@gmail.com or 518.356.2460.



**All Saints Sunday  
Sunday, November 3rd at  
10:15am**

Each year on All Saints Day we celebrate the lives of our friends and loved ones who have died. On November 3rd we invite you and 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 is on the Worship & Music bulletin board in the narthex to list those loved ones who have passed away since last year (along with their date of death if you happen to know it). The names of those individuals will be read during the prayer and a special candle will be lit in their memory. We believe in Holy Communion that we enter into community with Christ and all the saints throughout all time and space. Therefore, if you'd like to bring in a memento or a framed picture of a loved one on All Saints Sunday, space will be provided along our altar rails for the presence of all our loved who have died but are still with us in Christ to be remembered.

**Fall Community Work Day  
Sunday, November 3rd  
following worship**

Upon reviewing our old annual reports from the 1990s, it was repeatedly mentioned way back then that "both fall and spring cleanup days were sparsely attended." Things haven't gotten much better in the last twenty-five years, so this fall our Property Team is trying something new to make sure it's not just a few folks doing all of the work necessary to get our facilities and grounds ready for the winter. On November 3rd after worship we'll spend a couple hours raking up leaves, washing windows, putting our harvest garden to bed for the winter and doing all the other things necessary this time of year. Please sign-up on the Fellowship bulletin board in the narthex or on Realm and join us in working together in Spirit filled community!

**ELCA Youth Gathering Meet Up  
Sunday, November 3rd at  
4:00pm  
Lutheran Church of the Good  
Shepherd  
547 Saratoga Road in  
Glenville, New York**

We had a great turnout at our first youth meet up for the ELCA Youth Gathering last month and in November our friends at Good Shepherd are hosting! If you or your youth will be entering high school, in high school, or graduating from high school in the spring of 2021, this meet up is for you! Here more about the youth gathering as we enjoy some tasty snacks,

play some games and build community with our friends at Good Shepherd and Our Redeemer Lutheran churches. There's conversation about this becoming a permanent regional youth group as well! Please sign-up on the Fellowship bulletin board in the narthex or on Realm and if you have any questions please speak with Pastor Dustin.

**Veterans' Day Service of Holy  
Communion  
Sunday, November 10th at  
10:15am**

Join us for our third annual Veterans' Day Service where we honor the brave women and men who've given up so much to keep us safe. The service will feature special prayers, brief remarks from local vets and a chance to honor all who've served in our congregation. Everyone attending is also invited to bring a picture of a vet they'd like to honor to be displayed in our sanctuary. Pictures will be returned after the service. All from the community are welcome and be sure to bring a friend or neighbor!

**Fall 2019 New Member Class  
Sunday, November 10th  
following worship**

Have you been attending Messiah for a while now and beginning to think about taking the next step in your faith journey? Well talk with Pastor Dustin asap because enrollment in our Fall 2019 New Member Class has begun! The class takes place on Sunday, November 10th as we use the

promises one makes in baptism to learn about both our faith and how Messiah works. New member households are then paired with a sponsor family and we all gather together for our New Member Dinner on Wednesday, November 20th. New members will then be welcomed into our Spirit filled community on Christ the King Sunday, November 24th. We'd love for you to officially be a part of our Spirit filled congregation grounded in Jesus Christ!

**Paris to Pittsburgh Film  
Screening  
Saturday, November 16th from  
5:30pm - 8:30pm  
First Reformed Church of  
Schenectady  
8 North Church Street in  
Schenectady, New York**

The climate for change is now! Join our friends at First Reformed for a viewing of the new film "Paris to Pittsburgh" about how the all-American town of Pittsburgh, PA is addressing climate change. The film is directed National Geographic filmmaker Sidney Beaumont and following the film there will be pizza, a tour of First Reformed's green facility and lively discussion! If you have any questions, please speak with Creation Care Chair Kären Telfeyan!

**Confirmation Sunday  
Sunday, November 17th at  
10:15am**

Seven of our youth, Logan, Hannah B., Hannah C., Jesse, Tyler, Kyle, Abriel have been hard at work over the last two

and a half years learning about the Bible and Lutheran traditions, growing in their faith, serving their community and connecting with their church. On this very special Sunday please join us as we confirm God's promises made to them in baptism and welcome them as full adult members of our Spirit filled congregation!

**Book Club: Long Walk to Water  
Tuesday, November 19th at  
11:00am**

Long Walk to Water is a short novel written by Linda Sue Park and published in 2010. It includes the true story of Salva Dut, a part of the Dinka tribe and a Sudanese Lost Boy, and the fictional story of Nya, a young village girl that was a part of the Nuer tribe. Park used this book as a platform to support Dut's program, Water for South Sudan. Please join us in discussing how God is at work in the difficult issue of water access throughout the world!

**Thanksgiving Basket Packing  
with Concerned for the Hungry  
Saturday, November 23rd from  
8:00am to 5:00pm  
Keane Elementary School  
1252 Albany Street in  
Schenectady, New York**

This might be over a month away, but please be sure to sign up for Thanksgiving Basket Packing with Concerned for the Hungry! 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 had a great time packing food baskets over the last few years and are so happy to be doing it again. Please use the side entrance off of the parking lot, since the front doors will be locked. Please sign-up on the Social Action bulletin board in the narthex or on Realm and if you have any questions please speak with Social Action Chair Pete Jones.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
with Schenectady Clergy  
Against Hate  
Sunday, November 24th at  
6:00pm  
Unitarian Universalist Society of  
Schenectady  
1221 Wendell Avenue in  
Schenectady, New York**

Join us for our third annual Schenectady Clergy Against Hate Interfaith Thanksgiving Service! Worship will begin at 6:00pm and will feature an interfaith choir this year (please speak w/ Pastor Dustin if you're

interested in singing). The service will feature prayers, music and small group conversation amongst folks of all faith traditions that call Schenectady home. And without a doubt, a DELICIOUS dinner will follow! Everything should be over by 8:00pm in order to make the event more family friendly! Please join us!

## Ministry Team Meetings

**Evangelism Team Meeting  
Monday, October 7th at  
6:00pm**

So our website is four years old and really starting to show its age! Our goal is to develop a new, much more mobile friendly site by the end of the year. We're also continuing to think about a new logo as well and a bunch of other ways to spread the Good News of Jesus and connect with our neighbors at Messiah. If you have any questions, would like to join the group, or would like something added to the

agenda, please speak with Co-Chairs Molly Karrel or Tom Collins.

**Worship & Music Team  
Meeting  
Monday, October 7th at  
7:00pm**

Whew... from reviewing "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday and Global Communion Sunday to planning for a variety of special fall services including our annual Healing Service and Reformation Sunday, we got a lot to talk about! If you have any questions, would like to join, or would like to add a comment about our worship services or anything you'd like to see more/less of, please speak with Chair Rianne Johnson.

**SiCM Capital Campaign  
Launch Event  
Tuesday, October 22nd at  
7:00pm  
839 Albany**

**Street, Schenectady, New York**  
Our resolution to move SiCM towards an interfaith service organization is going extremely well, but this month SiCM is taking a pause in order to officially launch its capital campaign to renovate its main food pantry and build a community resource space as part of a new consolidated Albany Street campus. Michael Roth, the architect who created our Master Plan at Messiah, is also the architect for this project and will be giving an in depth presentation. If you have any questions, please speak with SiCM Delegates Betsy Ryan & Nancy Stellrecht.

**Congregation Council  
Monday, October 21st at  
7:00pm**

The primary item for discussion this month at Council will be our new proposed governance structure and how to get Pastor Dustin out of the center of everything as we grow from a pastor to program sized church. Other major items include developing a new Personnel Policy, receiving an update on our furnace replacement and discussing our Fall 2019 Financial Stewardship Campaign. If you have any questions or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with President Pete Jones.

**Property & Grounds Team  
Meeting  
Wednesday, October 23rd at  
7:00pm**

With our congregation having recently voted to immediately replace our sanctuary furnaces and make a final decision about the accessibility portion of our capital campaign by February, we have a lot of work to do! If you have any questions or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with Property Co-chair Charlie Zitzmann.

**#Help Portrait/ Concerned for  
the Hungry Volunteer Meeting  
Tuesday, October 29th at  
7:00pm**

We have two big Social Action events coming up and we need as many volunteers as possible! On Saturday, November 23rd is our annual

service day with Concerned for the Hungry making Thanksgiving baskets and on Saturday, December 7th is our second annual #HelpPortrait Schenectady event, a day where we create an awesome community Christmas party and provide professional quality portraits to local families in need. If you're interested in volunteering for or helping coordinate both these wonderful events, please join us for a planning meeting on Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00pm. If you have any questions speak with Social Action Team Chair Pete Jones or Pastor Dustin!

**Grant Writing Task Force  
Meeting  
Wednesday, October 30th at  
6:00pm**

Amongst other work our Grant Writing Task Force will discuss recent outreach with community leaders and organizations, from local town government to Food Pantries of the Capital Region. We will also discuss smaller grant opportunities in order to fully support our goal of reaching HPNAP guidelines and opening an additional pantry day by January 2020! If you have any questions, would like to join the group, or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with Convener Rebecca Bliss.

**Faith Formation Team Meeting  
Wednesday, November 13th  
at 7:00pm**

From reviewing the start of Sunday school, finalizing long

term plans for a high school youth group in partnership with other local Lutheran congregations to developing a winter Adult Vacation Bible School, we have a lot to talk about! If you have any questions, would like to join the group, or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with Chair Ibrahím Pedriñán.

### Fall Calendar Meeting Sunday, December 1st at 11:30am

This will be a VERY important calendar meeting so we're giving plenty of notice! In addition to our regular scheduling, we'll be laying out our new meeting structure and schedule with our five ministry teams and sub groups. Ministry team chairs and all lay leaders are strongly encouraged to attend!

## News You Can Use!

### Hazardous Waste Collection Update

Many thanks to all who have participated in our hazardous waste collection! Waste collection is over for this year and will resume in the spring. We'll have more information on collection dates next year.

### Card Ministry Update

6 cards were sent out in September.

### Volunteers Needed!!

Golly, in our rapidly growing congregation, we're always in need of all sorts of help to support our many new and

existing ministries. If you'd like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Dustin! Here's just a few keys areas where assistance is needed:

- Nursery Coordinator
- Nursery Leaders
- Fellowship Ministry Team Chair
- Tech Czar Worship Leaders

### Box Tops for Education

Thank you to all who were kind enough to cut out "box tops for education." We were able to send \$8 worth to the Navajo Mission in Rock Point, AZ recently. The school uses the box top money to purchase different items for their school. Please take time to continue cutting box tops out, and place them in the labeled box in the narthex. Thanks again!

### Undergarment Collection for the Mohonasen Anchor Room

This fall our High School Youth are leading a collection of rarely donated new undergarments for the Mohonasen High School Anchor Room. With the free and reduced lunch rate currently at 45% in the district, many of our local young people are in great need and our goal is to reach 1250 items this year! Here's what is currently needed as specified by our partners at Mohonasen CSD:

- Men's Socks: white & black short socks, variety



of color crew socks, some dress socks

- Women's Socks: variety of color short and crew socks, fuzzy bootie socks
- Men's Underwear: mostly boxers and boxer briefs size small to XXL
- Women's Underwear: mostly bikini and thong styles size small to XXL
- Bras: mostly sports bras and some regular bras size small to XXL

All items can be placed in the container labeled "Mohon-CARES Undergarment Collection." Our youth will give regular updates on how our collection is going and will be reaching out to community businesses and neighbors for additional donations. **We're about 1/3rd of the way towards reaching our goal and we need your help!** If you have any questions, please speak with Jesse Mathis.

### We Need More Hymnals!

As our church family continues to grow in size, we will need approximately forty more hymnals to ensure everyone can participate in worship. You might have noticed there are barely enough hymnals to go around some days, and as the

church continues to grow, this need will also continue to grow. You can help ensure all of our members can make a joyful noise by purchasing a hymnal at the cost of \$30 each. Hymnals will include a book plate so that you can dedicate it in honor or memory of a special person. Order forms will be available in the weekly bulletin and are due by Reformation Sunday (October 31st). If you have any questions, please see Rachel DeTeso-Mathis. Thank you for helping out our church family!

### Check Your Keys!

Please check your keys – if you have key #22, please notify Pastor Dustin, Rianne, or Bill Ellis so we can ensure our records are up to date. Thanks!

### Note from Ibrahim

Family of God, greetings of peace from... well... from right next door. As many of you know I have now fully moved into the parsonage with Pastor Dustin and Willard E. Bear and have also stepped into the role of Faith Formation chair. Thank you to Jean Jones for her leadership and continued support and wisdom! In the days leading up to the Draft Strategic Plan, I spoke with many of the ministry team leaders and heard many great ideas, needs, and areas of growth for the years to come. Themes that stuck out were a desire to partner, cooperate, and work together across ministry teams. This is exciting to me because we are stronger together and working in

concert means we share the responsibility and spend more time together.

Another theme was to make sure that we cover any gaps in the faith formation timeline - to ensure that people at every stage have engaging and robust ministry opportunities available. This was especially true for our high schoolers and young adults, and lots of great creative juices have been flowing around how we can better serve people at every step of the faith journey.

Other themes included engaging neighbors more, creating a "Vacation Bible School" for adults and kids (winter and summer, respectively), and identifying more intentional ministry opportunities for people who demonstrate internal and external call to ministry. All of these are very exciting!

Finally, one theme that kept coming back was creating a culture of listening, of hearing where people are at so we can meet them where they're at, of engaging in an attentive posture, and so I would like to personally invite you to share your thoughts, your feelings, your experiences in Faith Formation settings with me. I welcome your stories, your concerns, your imaginings for robust offerings within faith formation. Please feel free to talk to me on Sunday mornings, or to drop me an e-mail at [ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.com](mailto:ijp@ibrahimpedrinan.com). I very much look forward to scheming and dreaming and

walking this faith journey with you.

### Social Action Update

The sorting of food at the Regional Food Bank in September had to be cancelled as not enough people signed up to participate. The next Regional Food Bank sorting event will be held on January 4th, 2020 from 1-3PM.

The next project for Social Action will be the sorting of food at Concerned for the Hungry's Thanksgiving Food Drive on Saturday, November 23rd. We will have the Carrot, Onion and Potato stations once again so we need many hands, especially younger hands. We will be there from 9:00am until about 4:00pm in the afternoon.

Sign-up sheet will go up in early November.

We continue to collect the following items:

For SICM: crochet thread, knitting Needles, crochet Needles

For City Mission: Socks (all sizes and styles)

For Joan Nicole Prince Home: toilet paper, paper towels, pump soap, clorox wipes, tall kitchen bags, sandwich bags, lysol spray, gift cards (walmart, target, etc) postage stamps

Boxes for each collection are under the coat rack in the Narthex.

## October Minister of the Month: Vanessa Ford-Roether!

Vanessa is currently serving as a Sunday School teacher, as she has done for the last 3 years. She has also been involved in the various fundraising campaigns for our children to go to Camp Calumet. She also enjoys being an usher during Sunday services alongside her son Atticus.

She counts among her greatest accomplishments of being the proud mother of 2 children, Ella, soon to be 11 and Atticus, 8.

Besides running her active household alongside her husband Douglas, she works full time within the Superintendent's office in the District Office of the Shenendehowa School system in Clifton Park.

Having been a member at Messiah for the last 11 years or so, she appreciates all that it encompasses, especially the great singers in the choir. She has been grateful for the support and prayers of congregation members this year during her fight of her breast cancer diagnosis treatment and subsequent "all clear" outcome.



## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: CREATION CARE

Our creation care ministry team was created with the intention of making the care for all creation an integral part of every aspect of the life and mission of the congregation.

Here are a few of many ways that the creation care ministry team has impacted Messiah:

- Hosted numerous speakers to hold discussions about climate and environment related matters
- Helped with the creation/landscape of our Rev. Richard W. Rieger Harvest Garden
- Creation Appreciation Hikes
- Helping supply more recycling bins throughout the church building
- Giving recycling tips on the back of our bulletins
- Offering hazardous waste collection days and collecting reused pill bottles throughout the year



Throughout this past year, our Creation Care ministry has definitely helped Messiah get more integrated with caring for creation and has much more planned for the future! If you are interested in this ministry, please don't hesitate to join them! You can speak with chair Karen Telfeyan for more information as well.



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

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

Dear siblings in Christ,

Last Sunday, during a Special Meeting of the Congregation, in near unanimous vote (there were two abstentions), we voted to adopt the following resolution. The minor amendments made during the meeting are reflected in **red**.

**Resolved**, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Messiah:

1. Approves the hiring of Adams Cooling and Heating to install a new high efficiency furnace and air conditioning system for the church sanctuary;
2. Approves the expenditure of up to \$13,000 **from the Robert Doremus Emergency Fund, from the Capital Improvement Fund, or another other designated fund as the Congregation Council sees fit**, to pay for these services;
3. Memorializes the Stewardship Ministry Team to conduct a short term capital appeal to raise the necessary funds **to replenish our financial reserves**;
4. Memorializes the Property Ministry Team to work with Adams Heating and Cooling to complete the furnace replacement project;
5. Memorializes the Capital Appeal Task Force and the Congregation Council to provide a final recommendation for the installation of accessibility bathrooms in the narthex, a chair lift to the fellowship hall, necessary infrastructure upgrades and a fundraising plan to complete those projects by our next Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020;
6. Covenants to enter into a time of sustained prayer, listening and conversation around both the future of our church building and possible partnership with Holy Trinity Reformed Church.
7. Memorializes the Congregation Council to further refine the long term objectives and governance structure discussed in *Messiah in Your Lifetime: A Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025* for final approval at our next Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This is obviously a lot... sometimes when the Holy Spirit is at work, gosh, does She work quickly! In the pages of this newsletter and over the next month, please pay attention to how we're operationalizing all portions of this important resolution. We are embarking on what will likely be a once in a generation sort of year at Messiah where we're going to need to communicate well, make use of all our respective gifts and practice listening to one another more than ever before. During such a time of change, I'll be trying to spend many less nights in meetings and more evenings at folks' dinner tables, having a "listening tour" of sorts to reconnect with folks, especially our long time members. I have no doubt, that bound up together with Christ and one another around God's Table, we got this!

In Christ,

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

Pastor Dustin



## PRESIDING BISHOP'S LETTER: BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

This church had a meeting in August. We gathered in Milwaukee for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. We were filled with anticipation and excitement—what would unfold during the assembly? How would we be inspired by worship and Bible study? How would we be challenged? What new insight into the work of the church would we receive? It turned out to be quite a week. The assembly adopted a social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action”; offered an apology to people of African descent; adopted a resolution setting aside June 17 as a day of repentance to commemorate the Emanuel 9; moved forward on our work toward authentic diversity; declared the ELCA a sanctuary denomination; adopted a policy statement, “A Declaration of Inter-religious

Commitment”; celebrated the successful completion of our first-ever comprehensive campaign; began the celebration of 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely; elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as secretary; passed a budget; and much more.

The assembly was intense, and voting members were actively engaged. The actions taken generated much debate during and after the assembly. Different narratives about what did and did not happen have been spun. Some say that a gathering of well-meaning people got a little carried away and entangled the church in impossibly naïve and dangerously political issues—calling out patriarchy, denouncing racial inequity, establishing a new commemoration for the church calendar, becoming a “sanctuary denomination,” being a little too open to inter-religious commitments. Others say that a gathering of well-meaning people took decisions that were too timid, that didn't go nearly far enough to address and act on significant issues in society and within the church. It seems as if they are reporting on two different events.

Here's what did happen. Our days were centered around the word and sacraments. At midday every day we gathered for communion. We heard the word read, proclaimed and sung. We remembered our baptism. We received the living Word in, with and under the bread and wine. This wasn't an intermission in our work, a kind of break from the real business of the assembly. It was the source and strength for the work we were called to do. Before votes were cast, we paused in silence and then in prayer. There was Bible study every day. We sang psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God. We had deep conversations with each other, first as strangers, but then recognizing in each other a member of the body of Christ. We celebrated and disagreed and laughed and got far too little sleep. And, led by the Spirit, we caught a glimpse of the kingdom of God breaking into the world.

One of the gifts the Lutheran movement offers to the world is the clear declaration that the word of God is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. Martin Luther had a very conservative view of human nature, recognizing our brokenness, rebellion and sin. We all stand under God's judgment. Did we get it all right at the assembly? Probably not. Where we were in error, may God correct us. But the word's promise is that we are forgiven and redeemed. We are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. The actions taken in Milwaukee were based on our scriptural and confessional understanding of who God chooses to be for us, especially and most clearly in Jesus crucified and risen for the life of the world. We believe that God desires abundant life for all, that all people are created equally in the image of God, that we are commanded to welcome the stranger and care for children. And we are to be bold. In Milwaukee, we stepped out in faith.