

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

Labor Day Service of Holy Communion
Sunday, September 1st at 10:15am

Christ is present in every time and space we find ourselves in, not just on Sunday and not just at church. This Labor Day Weekend we'll focus on one area where we often neglect to reflect on God's presence: in our professional lives. Join us for a morning of special prayers for workers, the unemployed, those organizing for just labor practices and a special rite called the Blessing of the Hands. Be sure and stop by for this new special Sunday at Messiah!

Men's Group Service Night: Landscaping
Wednesday, September 4th at 5:00pm

We've made some beautiful improvements to our landscaping over the past couple years, but there's still plenty more to do! The bushes on the Guiderland Avenue side of our sanctuary are quite overgrown and may lead to bugs and other pests making their way into our building, so let's get rid of em! We'll then plant a variety of new, low maintenance plants similar to what's on the Oak Street side of our building in a way that accents our flag pole and honors the life of Dave Ellis, who served his country in

World War II and along with his beloved wife Lore, improved our gardens over many years at Messiah. While the event will be led by our Men's Group, all are invited to participate.

Choir Practice Begins!
Thursday, September 5th at 7:00pm

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW CHOIR MEMBERS! Do you love to sing? Do you love to have fun? Then do we have the group for you! Join us on Thursday, September 5th at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall as the choir starts preparing for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Doug!

"God's Work. Our Hands."**Sunday****Sunday, September 8th at 9:00am**

Join the people of Messiah as we rally in support of our local community and kickoff the 2019-2020 program year! Registration for Sunday School begins at 9:00am for children pre-k and up with an awesome new adult education course upstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Worship begins at 10:15am with a revival style outdoor worship, the return of our awesome choir and a blessing of kids' backpacks for the school year ahead. During the offering, we'll rededicate ourselves to serving our neighborhood with the launch of an ongoing partnership with our local Mohonasen Central School District, a collection program led by our youth of new socks and undergarments for the MohonCARES Anchor Room! Afterwards we'll host a delicious community potluck with grillables and drinks provided. If you'd like to drop off new socks and undergarments (for students of all sizes) beforehand, there'll be a big box by our main entrance! All our friends and neighbors are invited to join us! Please RSVP with the dish you're bringing either on [Realm](#) or on the Fellowship Board in the Narthex!

A great time was had by many at Messiahstock IV! Many thanks to the Olochnowicz Family for hosting and for all who helped made this a great weekend!



**Children's Faith Formation:
Whirl!
Beginning Sunday, September
8th at 9:00am**

And we're back at it! Faith formation for pre and elementary school aged children during the program year at Messiah Lutheran Church uses the Whirl! curriculum which explores a theme of the day based on the texts we hear later in worship in a fun, age appropriate sort of way. Children first gather in the sanctuary for meditative minute with Ms. Kristen (we're taking a break from the singing this year) before heading off with one of four specific age groups for a short video, discussion and activity. If you have any questions or would like to register your child, please speak with Sunday School Superintendent Cheryl Borski. We're also still looking for assistant leaders!

**Middle & High School Youth
Faith Formation
Beginning Sunday, September
8th at 9:00am**

Our high schoolers are SO over programmed these days, so that's why on Sunday morning we provide a mellow time for our young people to simply hang out and talk about whatever issues they're facing in everyday life. The Breakfast Club, comprised of our high school aged youth and led by Ms. Tammi will now meet separately from an as yet to be named new group of middle schoolers led by Ms. Betsy. If you have any questions or know a youth who would like to join, please speak with Tammi or Betsy!

**Adult Faith Formation: Meeting
Jesus for the First Time
Beginning Sunday, September
8th at 9:00am**

Join Dr. Merle Longwood this fall for a series of conversations grounded in Marcus Borg's classic book *Meeting Jesus for the First Time*. Borg, who began

life as a pious Lutheran in North Dakota, earned his doctorate in New Testament from Oxford and concluded his career as a Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, explores who the historical Jesus likely was and how this can inform our personal faith. Books will be purchased second hand at a discount with the cost being roughly \$5. If you have any questions, or would like a copy before the course begins, please speak with Merle!

**Confirmation Class:
colaborate!**

Beginning Sunday, September 8th at 6:00pm

Here we go again! In addition to our eight current confirmation students who will become full adult members of our congregation this November we'll also be welcoming six more young people and their parent/guardians in our next confirmation group! We'll begin with our outgoing confirmation students sharing with the incoming group about how to make the most out of this important faith formation experience and developing a learning covenant as a group. In subsequent weeks we'll begin studying the Old Testament with the support of our outgoing students until they are confirmed on November 17th! If you know a middle schooler who might appreciate learning more about his/her/their faith, please speak with Pastor Dustin! Also, by the way, if you're someone

It was hard to do, but we surprised him! Many thanks to all who helped chip in to make this surprise event happen, and happy 5th year of ordination to Pastor Dustin!

a bit older who would like to learn more about the Old Testament, youth at heart are welcome to join us as well!

**Coffee Club III: Dialogues on Human Sexuality
Beginning Monday,
September 9th at 10:00am and
continuing (usually) on
Thursdays 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!

**Community Meditation Hour
Thursdays every other week at
6:00pm beginning September
12th**

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.



Much was accomplished at our last Faith Formation meeting – we are now ready for programming year 2019!

Volunteering at the Regional Food Bank
Saturday, September 14th at 1:00pm
965 Albany Shaker Road in Latham, New York

We will again be sorting food at the Regional Food Bank in Latham on September 14, 2019 1-3 PM. We will meet at the Regional Food Bank located just off Route 7 on 965 Albany Shaker Road in Latham. (Albany Shaker Road is across from Keeler Motors (McDonald's on the corner). Park in parking lot on left and walk to the back of the building. For more information, contact Pete Jones at 518-867-2489 and please RSVP on the Social Action Board in the narthex or on [Realm!](#)

[Welcome to Confirmation](#)
[Sunday, September 15th at 10:15am](#)

Two years ago we started a new tradition at Messiah...

blessing our incoming group of students as they begin confirmation class, presenting them with their first adult Bibles and pairing them with a church elder to help mentor them through the process. This time around, and intentionally scheduled near Grandparent's Day, we'll be expanding this very special Service of Holy Communion to also recognize the many seniors in our congregation who continue to mentor and guide so many of us. We have eight new young people preparing to begin confirmation and so many of our seniors to recognize, so please join us for this very important service!

Annual Worship Leader Training
Sunday, September 15th at 11:30am

Immediately after worship we'll hold our annual worship leader training for new and returning

worship assistants! This past winter's first communion class participants are eligible to become acolytes, our incoming confirmation class students are eligible to become crucifers and our soon to be confirmands are eligible to become assisting ministers! We're also looking for new lectors, greeters, ushers, bread bakers, cantors, choir members, nursery leaders, tech czars and altar guild members! It's a new goal at Messiah to have everyone who's able to serve in some worship leader role, so sign up on the narthex Worship & Music Board or on [Realm](#) in order to make sure we have enough trainers available for everyone! If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin. Worship is the work of a whole community... be a part of it!

[2021 ELCA Youth Gathering Meetup](#)
[Sunday, September 15th at 5:00pm](#)

The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis is well over a year away but us Schenectady area Lutherans ought to start getting to know each other! Join the youth, pastors and families of Good Shepherd, Our Redeemer and Messiah for a potluck dinner, fun and early info about the gathering! The gathering is open to all youth who are about to enter high school or have just graduated in the summer of 2021. Please [RSVP on Facebook](#) and mention what potluck dish your household might bring in the

comments section to assist in planning!

**[WELCA Presents "Priced Out"](#)
[Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00pm](#)**

You might have heard the term, "gentrification," but might not know what it means or how it applies to you. Well, this is the night to find out! Over the last twenty or so years, many urban areas have experienced an unprecedented influx of redevelopment dollars and wealthy folks moving back from the suburbs. While this process, called gentrification, can be wonderful for many residents, all those artisanal pie shops and micro-breweries on the sites of formerly abandoned warehouses often price out impoverished communities and communities of color. Additionally, inner suburban areas (like Rotterdam) often serve as "displacement zones" for residents priced out from urban cores, a pattern that often leads to misunderstanding and animosity across racial and economic lines. Now that gentrification has come to Schenectady, how can we can make sure that redevelopment happens in an equitable manner? And as Rotterdam continues to change, how can we get ahead of the problems brought on by gentrification and make sure our town is a place where all feel welcome? Join the women of Messiah Lutheran Church for a screening of "Priced Out," a film that explores how Portland,

Oregon experienced gentrification. Following the film Pastor Dustin, along with other community leaders, will host a conversation on how we are experiencing similar dynamics in our own neighborhood. The event is free and open to all and refreshments will be provided.

**Youth Group Meeting
Sunday, September 22nd 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.

**Coffeehouse with Mr. Doug
Sunday, September 22nd at 7:00pm**

Join us on Sunday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fabulous songs performed by our very own Mr. Doug on the piano and featuring the vocal stylings of Kevin Green. You may hear music by Frank Sinatra, Elton John, The Beatles and many other artists, however no matter what song is performed,

you are certainly in for a treat. Refreshments will be served and a free will offering will be collected. Please RSVP on [Realm](#) or on the Worship & Music Board in the Narthex.

**["Take this Bread" Monthly Book Club](#)
[Wednesday, September 25th at 11:00am](#)**

Join our monthly book club for our first meeting of the 2019 - 2020 program year! Recommended by Judy Becker, "Take this Bread" is the story of Sara Miles, an atheist who wandered into a church, received communion, and found herself transformed—embracing a faith she'd once scorned. A lesbian left-wing journalist who'd covered revolutions around the world, Miles didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behavior or piety; her faith centered on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries, piled on the church's altar to be given away. Within a few years, she and the people she served had started nearly a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of their city! 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!



T-Shirt Bag Workshop
Saturday, September 28th from
10:00am to 2:00pm

The Food Pantry uses plastic bags to pack our guests' groceries. Soon those bags will be no longer available. Therefore, we are looking for other possibilities. A while ago, WELCA made bags out of old Tee shirts and our guests loved them. So, we are asking the congregation to please save your old tee shirts (clean and with nothing offensive on them) and we are going to get together to make the bags. No sewing required, only cutting. (Even Pastor has made one!). Tee shirts can be any size and there will be a bin in the Narthex to put them in. Bring scissors if you have them, and your lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. All are welcome.

Tackling the Climate Crisis in
New York State
Tuesday, October 1st at
7:00pm

The effects of climate change have become increasingly apparent in recent years, but

How many can say that their church gathers together to throw axes a couple of times a year? Definitely ready for a zombie apocalypse!

how can we address this crisis while also protecting workers and sustainably developing communities? Join us for a community forum to discuss what's going on at the state level in New York to answer these difficult questions with the Rev. Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches, Mark Dunlea of Green Education and Legal Fund and Bob Cohen of Citizen Action of New York. From the recently passed Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to ongoing proposals to divest the New York State Pension Fund from fossil fuel companies, there's a great deal of confusion and disagreement in our community about initiatives that will likely affect every single New Yorker in the upcoming years. We may not all come out of this forum entirely agreeing on how to move forward, but that's not the point! Rather, as a Spirit filled congregation, we're seeking to provide a space for

our members, friends and neighbors to discuss these important issues in a faithful way and hopefully all learn from one another. If you have any questions, please speak with Creation Care Chair Kären Telfeyan or Merle Longwood. Please RSVP either on [Realm](#) or on the Social Action 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 third 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!

Harvest Family Retreat
Weekend
Friday, October 11th -
Monday, October 14th
Camp Calumet Lutheran
Freedom, New Hampshire

Come see what all the fuss is about! Pastor Dustin was recently invited to serve as chaplain for Camp Calumet's Harvest Weekend (which takes place over the Columbus/Indigenous People Day

holiday) and we'd love to invite members of the congregation along! The schedule isn't entirely finalized yet, but the weekend will include lovely fall activities like apple picking, hiking, pumpkin carving, broom ball, campfires and a cozy Sunday morning worship service in the Lakeside Dining Hall on the shores of the beautiful three-mile-long Lake Ossipee! Depending on the type of lodging you'd prefer and the size of your family, cost per person is roughly \$125 which covers three nights of heated cabin lodging, all meals and programming. Cheaper options including camping are also possible and some financial assistance may also be available upon request to Pastor Dustin. Come join us for an amazing fall weekend in New England! Please indicate interest and type of lodging preferred on the narthex Fellowship Board!

**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-



We also had a bunch of food at Messiahstock – there were homemade chips! Picture featuring Ibrahim picking out his morning essentials.

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.

**"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 Ibrahim 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!

**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 deacons... all in the community are invited to join us!

**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!

**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



Gathering together for Calumet Sunday – many thanks to all who have donated or have put together fundraisers to help our kids go to camp!

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!

Ministry Team Meetings

**Evangelism/Outreach Team Meeting
Monday, September 9th 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 Ministry Meeting
Monday, September 9th at
7:00pm**

There's much to go over at our next Worship & Music meeting, so you sure don't want to miss it! We'll be reviewing worship assistant roles, evaluating past services, planning our Welcome to Confirmation and experimenting with our new Season of Creation, going over our long-term goals, planning future services, and lifting up new resources that we can use

in the future! 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 Assembly

**Tuesday, September 10th at
7:00pm**

**St George's Episcopal Church
30 North Ferry Street in
Schenectady, New York**

Our resolution to move SiCM towards an interfaith service organization is going well! Pastor Dustin was recently appointed to chair the task force working to explore what this might look like and at SiCM's September Assembly the task force will give its initial report! All in the congregation are encouraged to attend and join the conversation!

Food Pantry Ministry Team

**Wednesday, September 11th
at 7:00pm**

As we continue discerning how to move towards adding a third food pantry session a month at Messiah and also expanding our leadership, we need your help! Please join us for this important meeting. If you any questions or would like to join our Food Pantry Ministry Team, please speak with Co-Chairs Judy Becker or Joyce Gresham.

Congregation Council

**Monday, September 16th at
7:00pm**

Gosh we have a bunch to talk about! From finalizing the second half of our strategic

plan to approving a resolution to the congregation asking for the raising of funds for a new furnace and more, there's a lot going on! Additional updates regarding our capital campaign, the SiCM interfaith process, a new Personnel Policy and more will be discussed. If you have any questions, would like to join the group, or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with President Pete Jones.

Care & Concern Ministry Team

**Tuesday, September 17th at
2:00pm**

One of the most important things our congregation does is care for one another! At this meeting will discuss our two priority areas, improving our support for seniors and better supporting those suffering from addiction and mental illness. If you have any questions, would like to join the group, or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with Chair Barb Hallett.

Stewardship Ministry Team

**Tuesday, September 17th at
4:00pm**

Every October at Messiah we spend the month talking about our goals for the upcoming year and how the Spirit may be calling us to financially support our efforts to reach the incredible goals God has laid before us. This is all in the lead up to Reformation Sunday, October 27th, when we make a pledge of financial support for the year ahead and then have a delicious catered party

afterwards as a thank you! Planning out this stewardship season is our ministry team's top priority. Furthermore, we'll be talking about something we call the "Feed the Roots" Campaign, which is a plan we have to reach out to the roughly 25% of Messiah members not particularly connected with the ministries of our congregation. If you have any questions, would like to join the group, or would like something added to the agenda, please speak with Chair Penny Incitti.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

**Sunday, September 29th at
11:30am**

This past spring at our last Special Meeting of the Congregation we met to approve a new vision, values and purpose statement as the first part of a wider Strategic Planning process and also updated everyone on the latest with our potential capital improvement project. Our Property Committee and three task forces have been working hard over the summer and early this fall we'll have a lot more to discuss! On the agenda for this meeting includes adopting specific five year goals as the remainder of our Strategic Plan, adopting a resolution calling for the replacement of two long overdue sanctuary furnaces, hearing an update about our electrical infrastructure and PERHAPS adopting a resolution calling for the hiring of a consultant to lead us in the

financial portion of our Capital Campaign. We'll also hear an update on our grant writing process. So yes, golly, we have A LOT to discuss at this meeting. Please join us and if you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dustin.

News You Can Use!

Volunteers Needed!!

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

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

Help Kids Go to Camp through Reach the Beach!

Every fall over seventy alumni, staff and family members run an incredible relay race called Reached the Beach to help raise funds for Camp Calumet Lutheran's campership fund. The fund helps defer the cost of a weeklong life changing experience for Lutheran kids throughout the Northeast, including many of our own right here at Messiah. This is Pastor Dustin's fifth year running the race (which takes place

between September 14th - 16th) and his goal this year is find at least fifty folks willing to donate at least \$10 to the fund. If you're interested in joining many members of our Spirit filled congregation who have already contributed, you can donate online [here](#) or speak with Pastor Dustin if you'd like to make out a check. Thank you for your generosity and your support of our young people!

Reception Coordinator Wanted

We are looking for someone to plan and execute receptions (i.e., baptism, new members, 1st communion, confirmation.) Requires purchasing paper products as needed, beverages and cake as well as asking for baked goods. Expenses covered by WELCA funds and a list of bakers & helpers is available. Shop at your leisure. Set-up takes place Sunday morning prior to the service. If you are interested, see Joyce Gresham for more details.

Messiah Celebrates the Season of Creation!

Last year on the World Day of Prayer, August 31st, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton released a [pastoral letter](#) stating, "Our ELCA ministries are making an impact as we as a church take hold of our common responsibility to creation and to God. We know that transitioning to lifestyles that

eliminate the causes of global warming is critical and must be done now." The letter further urged ELCA congregations to respond to the climate crisis by joining with Christians of many denominations across the globe in celebrating a new liturgical season, the Season of Creation. Each Sunday in September leading up to Saint Francis's Commemoration Sunday on October 6th we'll highlight a different aspect of the beauty of God's creation through special decorations, prayers and a sermon series:

- September 1st: 1st Sunday in Creation: Ocean Sunday
- September 8th: 2nd Sunday in Creation: Humanity Sunday
- September 15th: 3rd Sunday in Creation: Storm Sunday
- September 22nd: 4th Sunday in Creation: Cosmos Sunday
- September 29th: 5th Sunday in Creation: Fauna & Flora Sunday
- October 6th: Commemoration Day of Saint Francis & Blessing of the Animals

If you have any questions, please speak with Creation Care Chair Kären Telfeyan or Pastor Dustin.

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!

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 a container labeled "Mohon-CARES" in the narthex. 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. Mohonasen School Superintendent Shannon Shine will be joining us on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday on September 8th to help kick off this exciting new partnership! 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!

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is almost 4 years old and we couldn't be more pleased with all the support we have received.

We are working on dividing up some of the duties to help the workings of the pantry to go smoother. Therefore, we will have some sign-up sheets on our bulletin board by the furnace room. One will be for volunteers to shop and another for volunteers to stock. Also, we will have one for volunteers to pick up food at the Regional Food Bank in Latham and another for someone to meet them at church to help unload. If you sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, please, either see Judy Becker after church or call her at 518-374-5104 and she will explain the logistics. We have added to our report a sheet of all the food we have in our pantry. When you go shopping, if you could, pick up one item, it would be so appreciated. You may leave them in the pink bin by the sanctuary. Again, thank you for believing in this venture and always there to support us.

Grains

- Egg Noodles
- Pasta

- ♥ Rice (plain or brown)
- ♥ Rice Pouches (flavored)

- Stuffing
- Pasta sides

Breakfast Items

- ♥ Cereal
- Pancake Mix (complete)
- Pancake Syrup
- Poptart

- ♥ Oatmeal Packets

Vegetables (canned)

- ♥ Corn
- ♥ Green Beans
- ♥ Peas
- ♥ Carrots
- ♥ Tomatoes
- ♥ Tomato Sauce (not spaghetti sauce)

- ♥ Potatoes (canned)
- ♥ Potatoes (mashed)
- Mushrooms

- ♥ Beets

Fruit (canned)

- ♥ Peaches
- ♥ Pineapple
- ♥ Pears
- ♥ Applesauce
- ♥ Fruit Cocktail
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mandarin Oranges

Protein (canned/jar)

- ♥ Peanut Butter
- ♥ Tuna
- ♥ Canned Beans
- ♥ Kidney Beans
- ♥ Chicken
- Spam
- Corned Beef Hash

Ready Made Meals

- "Helper" Meals (hamburger)
- Manwich (sloppy joes)
- Chili

Individual Sized Items

- Juice-to-Go (to be added to water bottle)

Items the Bread of Life Food Pantry Uses:

Combination Foods

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Soup
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Stew
- Ramen Noodles (chicken)
- Ramen Noodles (beef)

Desserts/Snacks

- Pudding
- ♥ Animal Crackers
- Crackers
- Popcorn
- Jell-O

Miscellaneous Items

- Coffee (regular)
- Evaporated Milk
- Tea
- Apple Juice
- Jelly/Jam
- Coffee Creamer
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Oil
- Paper Towels
- Dish Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Deodorant – Men/Women
- Wipes

Accessing Messiah's Calendar

Due to popular demand, here is a brief tutorial on adding Messiah's calendar to your phone/computer. This method must be done on your computer, however, since the phone app does not give you a way to do this.

First, go to calendar.google.com. On the left sidebar, there should be some categories: "My Calendars" and "Other Calendars". Click on the "+" button to the right of the "Other Calendars" category and select "From URL." Next, you will copy and paste the following into the URL box:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/officemlcschenectady%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

If you use another calendar program, using the above listed link should still work if you choose to import the calendar into there. If you need assistance, Rianne is willing to help out with advance notice either after church or during her office hours or during another time that might possibly work.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: FAITH FORMATION

The purpose of this ministry team is to identify the spiritual and educational needs of the congregation and to address these through the planning and coordination of education programs including Cradle Roll, Children's Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, First Communion Classes, Sunday Forums, Seasonal Midweek Studies, Weekend Retreats and any other education programs consistent with the mission of the congregation.

This committee is a BIG one with many subcommittees falling beneath it – and with that, there are **so many** opportunities for you to get involved in helping pick adult education curriculum, teaching our children and older youth how to grow in faith and find ways in which religion is as pertinent to life as ever, helping our infants grasp critical faith milestones, and much more!

If you'd like to join this fine group of people, please speak with Ibrahím Pedriñán! We'd love to have you!





PASTOR'S LETTER: REV. DUSTIN G. WRIGHT

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

As we approach the end of a wonderful summer and the start of another exciting program year, I keep going back to five years ago now when we started this journey together and all that's changed... Many youth from my first confirmation class are now off to college! We have so many new faces in our Spirit filled congregation, but have of course lost a number of beloved long time members as well. I spend much more time now in community meetings and planning sessions while spending less time around everyone's dinner tables than I used to, a necessary change I believe as we continue to grow but also a change I often lament. Our once tiny congregation has increasingly become a major voice in the Capitol Region as we continue to redefine what it means to be a successful faith community in the twenty-first century, a dynamic that's all thanks to your incredibly hard work. A lot has changed!

Y'all know I like my long term plans, but one thing I haven't spoken much about is that throughout this year I've been intentionally asking myself questions like "What's next for me personally over the next five years?" and "Do I want to be a pastor for the foreseeable future?" After a whole lot of careful thought, prayer and conversation with loved ones, I realized on vacation this summer that barring anything unforeseen, God was indeed calling me to stay in ministry, in this place, with you, at Messiah, and pastor through a brand new set of challenges for another five years and perhaps more (if y'all want me to stick around, of course ☺).

With all that settled, and as we navigate major questions in the coming months like welcoming our new friends from Christ Lutheran to perhaps entering into community with Trinity Reformed down the street (more about that on Rally Sunday) to leading the effort to make Schenectady Community Ministries an interfaith organization to making major decisions about our Capital Improvement Project and more, it might be important to remember that one critical has not changed, and indeed never will. As wise old Qoheleth writes in my favorite Bible verse above, "two are better than one" and "a threefold cord is not quickly broken!" **Relationship, being gathered up together in community with Christ and one another, is and always will be the thing in life that matters most.** Let me be clear... especially after talking with some of our more senior members in recent months, I believe we owe it to them and to our neighborhood to make a final decision by this winter about what changes we believe we can make to our building and get to work on making it happen (even if it's not the full plan, which is completely okay!) Likewise, when we talk about partnering with others, it's not always easy. **This will be an incredibly exciting but also hard year ahead.** But I also firmly believe that it's the year God has called us to, gathered up together in community with Christ and one another.

Let's get to work!

Pastor Dustin



PRESIDING BISHOP'S LETTER: BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

One of the distinct privileges of this call as presiding bishop is seeing the church at work at home and around the world. The Lutheran movement is alive and well, speaking the gospel in a distinctive voice. Sunday after Sunday the good news is proclaimed in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. In hundreds of languages and dialects, God's promise of grace, reconciliation and freedom is received and celebrated in places Martin Luther never knew existed. We are part of a worldwide family. In many ways, and in the most important ways, we are alike. The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. A clear understanding of human brokenness and our inability to save ourselves sets us apart from societal and even some theological pressures that

would try to draw us away from the source of our life and freedom. A world built on works and individualism promises salvation based on our own effort and denies salvation if we fail. The Lutheran movement points to another way. This is our common witness.

There are also glorious expressions particular to regions, countries and history: governance; organization; the role of laity, deacons, pastors and bishops; and the age for first communion, to name a few. And that's just the ELCA! Around the world the expression of Lutheranism takes on many different flavors—literally and figuratively. In the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, porridge is a staple at all meals, so they pray, "Give us today our daily porridge." Spiritual healers are an important part of the life and ministry in the Lutheran church in Madagascar. Lutherans in Mexico celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which falls just a day away from the Swedish celebration of Santa Lucia. Lutherans around the world hold fast to the core and adapt to make the gospel accessible. Part of Luther's genius was to make Scripture, preaching and worship available in the language of the people. All these variations make the Lutheran movement richer, especially when we share across borders and cultures.

Just two years ago we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was interesting to see the different ways congregations and synods marked the event. Luther roses sprang up everywhere, even on an NCIS episode. There were Luther movies and Luther seminars. Ecumenical worship services were held, notably with Roman Catholics. I think the Small Catechism made the best-seller list. I can almost imagine a Lutheran Y2K-like montage of celebrations as the sun rose on Oct. 31, 2017, across the globe. If Lutherans are allowed to be proud, we were. Now it's time to move forward. It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. What it means for the Lutheran World Federation's 148 member churches, representing over 75.5 million members in 99 countries, that are exploring Lutheran identity. For some member churches with a state church tradition—Sweden, for example—Lutheran identity is a novel concept. The Lutheran church was "The Church," and there was no need to think about identity. Now many churches in Africa and Asia are forging an indigenous expression of what it means to be Lutheran. Yes, they still sing hymns set to German, Swedish and American hymn tunes, but they are also developing music and worship using traditional instruments and styles. What will our Lutheran identity be in the ELCA? We still treasure our immigrant roots—and we should. But if our ethnic identities become synonymous with Lutheran identity, we are missing the mark. The gospel, and Luther's clear exposition of it, transcends human boundaries. When a single culture's vernacular becomes the established language of the people, we hinder the gospel's free course in the world. We can become an alternative face of Christianity in the culture—one that moves across divisions, is meant for all, and that is a free and liberating gift.