

The MESSENGER

A faithful, serving community joyfully sharing Christ's love.

Rev. Julie Haspel, Pastor
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SUNDAY WORSHIP
Contemporary Worship: 8:45am
Christian Education: 9:45am
Traditional Worship: 10:45am
January 2018

NUMBER 1

From Pastor Julie



Happy New Year!

As the calendar rolls around to January 1, we once again begin a new year. Many of us may be at work making our resolutions with every belief that we will keep them this year. New Year – new you will be the mantra for the next few weeks, that is until the Super Bowl rolls around again and all diet resolutions are derailed.

All joking aside, this is an important time for us as Christians. The New Year helps us remember that we are always made new in Christ Jesus. The good news is that we don't have to wait to change the calendar on December 31. Rather, we get to realize this every single day as we are baptized children of God.

Beginning fresh and new is truly a gift from God, yet so many things seem to get in the way of us fully realizing it. What prevents us from being renewed and being the people that God created us to be? My sense is that the answer will be different for each one of us. However, I do believe there are similar patterns that can be addressed to clear a straight path.

To begin this conversation, the Social Ministry Committee will begin a luggage drive that will help transitioning children in difficult times. The program is aptly called, "Let Go of your Baggage." What other baggage do we carry around that prevents us from fully living into our calling?

I confess to you that I have an issue with clutter. This shouldn't come as a huge surprise as I'm sure that you have been in my office... To this end, I plan to immerse myself in reading and learning about decluttering as a spiritual practice. First on my list will be reading [Unstuff: Decluttering Your Home, Mind, and Soul](#) by Ruth Soukup. I have every intention of sharing what I learn through my calling to preach and to teach.

I invite you to join me in this journey as we all strive to live faithfully in the new year.

Peace,
Pastor Julie

What's Happening at Messiah

Saturday, January 6, 9:00am: Property Work Day-

We will be taking down the Christmas tree and other Christmas decorations and returning everything to the attic. **WON'T YOU JOIN US?**

Tuesday, January 9: Annual Report articles due in the church office.

Friday, January 12, 7:00pm: Martin Luther King Celebration: An Interfaith Discussion. The Oakland and Franklin Lakes Interfaith Council will join the members of Barnert Temple in Shabbat at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Chris McCloud will be the speaker at the service, which will be followed by a potluck and conversations around the table. Please plan to attend this community building event.

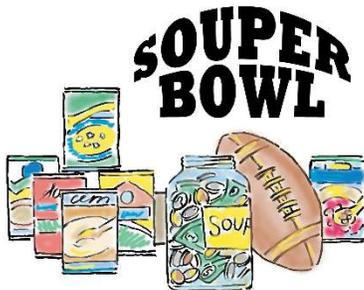
Sunday, January 14, 8:00am: Men's Breakfast.

Sunday, January 21: Annual Reports will be available to take home and read before the Annual Meeting.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28: Annual Meeting will follow the **10:00am** Worship service. The annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will be held after the meeting.



Sunday, February 4: Souper Bowl Sunday

We are asking everyone to bring in cans of soup, wrapped with a dollar. Soups that are heartier are best, but all contributions are

gratefully accepted.

In addition, we will be holding our 6th Annual Souper Bowl Sunday food collection at the ShopRite in Oakland from 9:00am until 4:00pm. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex soon!

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December 13, 2017

- ✚ Our new SOUND SYSTEM has been installed in the nave and the work completed by Friday, December 17 at a cost of \$6,162.38 using Capital Campaign funds.
- ✚ Council approved a proposed 2018 BUDGET with \$221,374 in income and \$223,005 in expenses leaving a \$2,621 deficit.
- ✚ Ron and Marilyn Rubner will chair SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, February 4, 2018 at ShopRite, Oakland. Watch for a sign-up chart to help.
- ✚ \$905 was raised at the FISH & CHIPS youth dinner.



Living a Generous Life

As you know, this year our stewardship program focused on "Living Generously". We explored various aspects of giving including making good choices with our financial decisions, increasing our giving toward a tithe and using the time and talents we have been given by God to be a blessing to others.

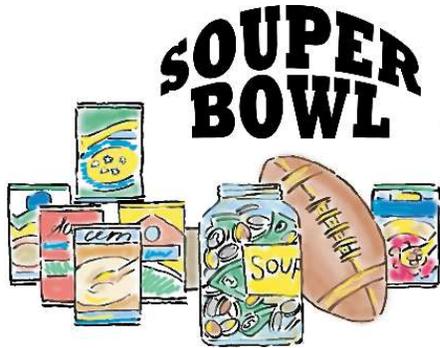
Thank you to all who so generously turned in pledge cards and commitment forms. As of today, we have received 28 pledges totaling \$107,424, and many of you returned commitment forms speaking to plans for thoughts and actions in the new year. Anyone who has not yet turned in a pledge may still do so.

Many thanks to each of you for all the ways that you enliven the life of our congregation and its mission around the world. In this season of Christmas, may we continue to see the blessings of the Christ-child around us.

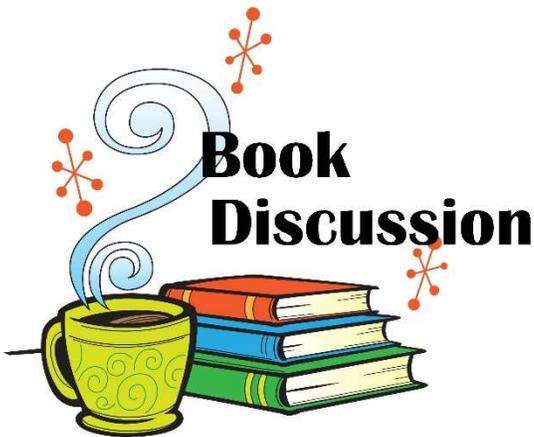
The Stewardship Committee

VOLUNTEER

To Help on February 4 with



Sunday Food Drive at ShopRite
9am-4pm



On Monday, January 29, at 7:30 we will meet to discuss The Shack by William P. Young. Copies of the book will be available at church in the near future. We had a lively discussion on Chocolat at the end of November, and expect to have another thought-provoking conversation in January. Please come and join us!

Thanks,
Everyone!

Greg and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and good wishes during our recovery from Greg's fall and my cancer treatments. Prayers were indeed answered in that Greg's face is returning to normal and that pathology reports do not show any cancer following a pet scan and lymph node removal. We thank God for his presence and his guiding hand that has been with us from day one. Again, thank you for your prayers, your caring, your phone calls, your help, your love.....God Bless!

Carol and Greg King



Save the Date:

Friday February 9 at 6:00pm

Join us for an evening of
Fun, Food and Fellowship.

Please sign up to bring a traditional
Mexican Fiesta dish –
recipes provided.

This is an adult only event, BYOB.

More info to follow.





Let Go of Your Baggage!

We at Messiah have a wonderful opportunity to help local children while literally getting rid of some baggage to start the new year. From December 31st, 2017 through January 28th, 2018, we will be collecting clean baggage in good condition, specifically:

- suitcases of all sizes
- duffle bags
- backpacks



All items will be donated to the NJ State Department of Child Protection and Permanency to carry the belongings of children being removed from their homes because of neglect or endangerment.

Bags can be dropped off at Messiah on Sunday mornings. The church office will also designate certain days and times during the week for people from the greater community to drop off donations. A flyer will be available at church and on Facebook so you can share info about our collection with local businesses you frequent, as well as your friends and family.

Please know that by “letting go of your baggage,” you will help make the emotional process of a child moving from home to home a little easier.

Our goal is to collect and deliver 100 pieces of luggage, etc. by the end of January. Please speak to Michele Weintraub or Pastor Julie if you have questions, and we ask you to pray that God will bless our new endeavor.



All Wrapped Up

Thank you to everyone who generously gave useful, thoughtful gifts in December to support the All Wrapped Up Program run by the Bergen

Volunteer Center. This year Messiah Lutheran Church donated wonderful gifts to 25 people in total, both children/teenagers and seniors.

It was noted in the recipients’ profiles that many do not have family or someone to give them a gift at Christmas. A number of the children face neglect and domestic violence. Many of the older adults are disabled and live alone or with an aide and have no family to support them and give them gifts at Christmas. Please know that the Christmas gifts we shared will make a big difference in the lives of the people being served.

Gifts were hand delivered to four agencies, including the New Jersey State Department of Protection and Permanency, the Division of Family Guidance, Buddies of New Jersey, and Care-Plus NJ - ICMS.



*“Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself.”*

Mark 12:31

BUDGET REPORT



To All Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

Total Income in November was \$17.3K versus expenses of \$18.0K, resulting in a deficit of \$.7K. YTD Total Income is \$183.6K versus YTD Total Expenses of \$198.9K, resulting in a significant “Operating Deficit” of \$15.3K. We only have two Sundays in December in which to reduce this deficit, otherwise, we will be forced to take funds from the “Restricted Accounts”.

Restricted Accounts decreased \$1.6K, from \$134.1K to \$132.5K in November. There is a net increase of \$53.2K since January 1st.

Cash Accounts (Checking and Savings) decreased \$2.3K, from \$119.5K to \$117.2K in November. There is a net increase of \$41.3K since January 1st.

Ron Rubner,
Treasurer

Year to Date - November 2017

| | Budget | 2017 Actual | 2016 Actual |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income Accounts | | | |
| Ministry @Messiah | 185,863 | 166,532 | 168,676 |
| Mission Support | 17,692 | 17,100 | 17,683 |
| | | | |
| Total Income | \$203,555 | \$183,632 | \$186,359 |
| | | | |
| Expense Accounts | | | |
| Ministry @Messiah | 181,945 | 175,563 | 175,886 |
| Mission Support | 21,451 | 23,376 | 23,409 |
| | | | |
| Total Expenses | \$203,396 | \$198,939 | \$199,295 |
| | | | |
| Income less Expense | \$159 | (\$15,307) | (\$12,936) |

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

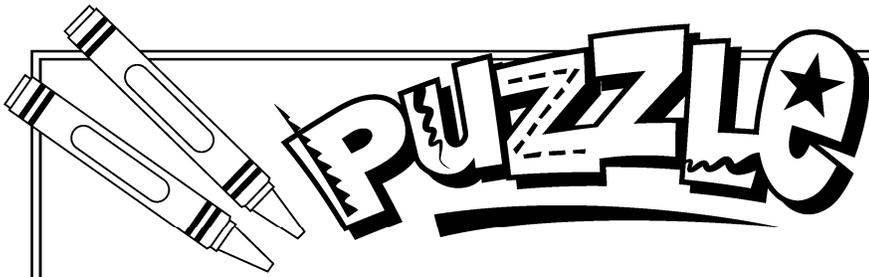
Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ’s call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need.



A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
 QWCDREYATMIOC�HFASWCOR
 MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

_____! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV
 Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!

Reprinted from the NEWSLETTER Newsletter

A penguin “parable”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A faithful, serving community
joyfully sharing Christ’s love.*

228 Ramapo Valley Road
Oakland, New Jersey 07436



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Contemporary Worship: 8:45am

Christian Education: 9:45am

Traditional Worship: 10:45am

SPECIAL SERVICE

December 31, one service at 10am

January 28, one service at 10am

followed by annual meeting and luncheon



Address correction requested. Thank you.