



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

Messiah Lutheran Church  
Rev. Julie Haspel, Pastor  
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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
Contemporary Worship: 8:45am  
Christian Education: 9:45am  
Traditional Worship: 10:45am

**2017**

**Beginning ... and beginning again**

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

“God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements,” writes Bernie Siegel. “Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease.”

Of course, we can “create a perfect world” only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!

**Restoring the balance**

In Springs in the Valley (Zondervan), pioneer missionary Lettie Cowman tells of a traveler making a trek through an African jungle. Native tribesmen who helped carry loads walked rapidly on day one, covering a great distance. Yet the next morning they refused to move. When the frustrated traveler asked the tribesmen why they were just sitting, they said they'd gone too fast on the first day and “were now waiting for their souls to catch up to their bodies.”

Cowman writes, “This whirling rushing life which so many of us live does for us what that march did for those tribesmen. The difference: They knew they needed to restore life's balance; too often we do not.”

God promises rest for our soul and body, so don't overlook the importance of physical restoration. Only by taking time to recharge can you be an effective laborer in God's kingdom.



## REFORMATION 500

Dear friends,

As the season of Easter continues to embrace us and send us out in mission, Messiah Lutheran Church continues its celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. The Dream Team has all sorts of plans to help us explore our history and celebrate the future.

The next event will be a study of the 95 Theses or “the Disputation on the Power of Indulgences” that Luther posted the church door in Wittenberg in 1517. This practice was an invitation to scholarly discussion and debate. The Disputation, itself, never took place, but this document began to change the church and the world. This document started the Protestant Reformation and it still informs us five hundred years later.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:30pm for study, discussion, and light refreshments. This study will help us understand our history with the hope of better understanding what we believe today.

I do hope that you are able to attend.

Peace,  
Pastor Julie

# WHAT'S HAPPENING at Messiah

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00pm: [Study and Discussion of Luther's 95 Theses](#)

Saturday, May 6, 9:00am: **Property Work Day.** In addition to our regular work, our hedges need trimming. Bring work gloves and knee pads if you have them.

Friday and Saturday, May 12-13: **Synod Assembly.**

Sunday, May 14, 8:00am: **Men's Breakfast.** Join us for breakfast and fellowship.

Saturday, June 3, 9:00am-3:00pm: [Messiah's Share Your Treasures Day](#)

Garage Sale: free will donations accepted. All proceeds go to the Youth Gathering.



**Saturday, June 3: Church BBQ!!** Mark your calendars because the church's favorite BBQ will be here before you know it! Appetizers will be at 4:00pm in the back picnic area. Chicken and ribs will follow at 5:30pm. Look for sign up sheet this month.

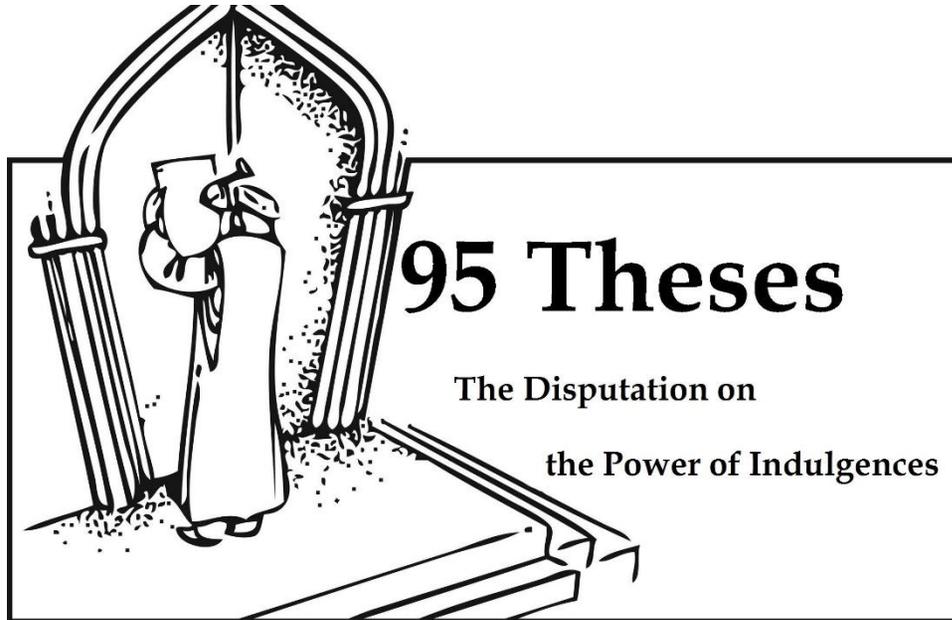
**Sunday, June 4, Outdoor Worship:** We are beginning our monthly worship in the Outdoor Chapel (ODC). Plan to join us in the ODC for the 8:45 service. We will continue to meet outside on the first Sundays of the month, weather permitting. See you there!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Sunday, June 11, 10:00am: Joint Worship Service**

# 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation

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## **Study and Discussion**

**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:30pm**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland, NJ**

When Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, they began to change the church and the world. This document started the Protestant Reformation, and it still informs us five hundred years later. This study will help us understand our history with the hope of better understanding what we believe today. Please join us for this discussion.

*light refreshments available*



# Social Ministry

## **PILLOWS for ST. PAUL'S and Upcoming Events**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Pillows for St Paul's collection a success! Twenty pillows and a dozen pillowcases were dropped off to the Emergency Men's Shelter in Paterson the day after Easter. The woman receiving the donation said we are an Angel. The remaining donations will be dropped off at the beginning of May.

Look for the grand totals posted at church and know that every single pillow and pillowcase given will bring comfort to someone who at one point lived on the street. Each of us can make a difference, one donation at a time. God's work. Our hands.

Please check the weekly bulletin for details about our upcoming Social Ministries programs. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Narthex for the following:

**MAY: Decorating Tote Bags for Bosnia**, which will be distributed to children in Bosnia during the ELCA - New Jersey Synod's International Servant Trip

**JUNE: Baby Shower to benefit North Porch Women and Infants' Centers**

Summer 2017 - **Habitat for Humanity work day**



The Sunday School has been journeying through the season of Lent focusing on the Gospel lessons each Sunday. Our Journey culminated with an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday morning that delighted all who participated (INCLUDING THE ADULTS WHO WATCHED!)

For the past few weeks, Mr. Fred Monk has been leading our class in a morning song that was tied to the lectionary for the day. The class is very pleased to have him teach us these songs. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> Ms. Linda Axtell made pretzels with our class and taught them the significance of the shape of the pretzel and its relationship with prayer. We all thank Mr. Monk, and Ms. Axtell for sharing these valuable lessons.

After Easter we will wrap up the Illustrated Children's Ministry series with the lesson of the "Parable of the Lost Sheep" and return to lectionary lessons for the remainder of our Sunday School year.



## CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Thank you to all who helped turning over the vegetable beds on Messiah's Earth Day.

Anyone interested in assisting with the gardens at Messiah, please contact Terry Vollmin at 201-788-5014. All hands welcome! We

will be planting soon and will need help weeding and picking vegetables. A sign-up sheet for garden help will be posted in a few weeks.

Terry Vollmin  
Garden Coordinator

**MESSIAH'S  
SHARE YOUR TREASURES DAY**



**JUNE 3  
9:00AM – 3:00PM  
(JUNE 10 – RAIN DATE)**

**FREE WILL TABLE DONATION**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO  
YOUTH GATHERING**



**To All Members of Messiah Lutheran Church**

**Total Income in March was \$15.3K versus expenses of \$18.2K, resulting in a deficit of \$2.9K. YTD Total Income**

**is \$54.2K versus YTD Total Expenses of \$55.9K. YTD there is a deficit of \$1.7K.**

**Restricted Accounts increased \$60.4K, from \$74.6K to \$135.0K in March. There is a net increase of \$55.7K since January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Cash Accounts (Checking and Savings) increased \$57.5K, from \$75.8K to \$133.3K in March. There is a net increase of \$57.5K since January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Ron Rubner  
Treasurer**

Year to Date - March 2017

	Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Income Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	50,690.00	49,908.00	51,389.00
02, Mission Support	4,825.00	4,322.00	4,498.00
Total Income	\$55,515.00	\$54,230.00	\$55,887.00
Expense Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	49,621.00	49,776.00	49,316.00
02, Mission Support	5,850.00	6,119.00	6,223.00
Total Expenses	\$55,471.00	\$55,895.00	\$55,539.00
Income Less Expense	\$44.00	(\$1,665.00)	\$348.00



# Thanks

FOR donating for  
Easter flowers

Brigitte Albrecht (2), Jerri Angermueller, The Boyce Family (2), Charlie Hashagen (2),  
The Haymon Family (2), Bill and Susanne Herbst, The Ludke Family (2), The O'Neil  
Family (2), Eleanore Orman, The Rios Family, Marilyn and Ron Rubner, Barbara and Al  
Schell, Lori Schmitt and Family, Grace Slingerland, The Trouwborst Family (3), Mary  
Ellen Twomey, Terry Vollmin, Joan Washofer and Eleonore Wattenbach.



# Benevolence of the Month

## *Cross Roads Camp*

Cross Roads is a welcoming, ecumenical retreat center and camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the NJ Synod of the ELCA. We are accredited with the American Camp Association.

We strive to:

- † Facilitate renewal, healing, inspiration and transformation for the body, mind and spirit.
- † Help individuals deepen their connection to themselves, others, the world we live in and God.
- † Remind all who come of our beautiful and inextricable connection to the natural world.
- † Create an ecumenical community of mutual acceptance, open exchange of ideas, reflection and unconditional love.
- † Live an example of Heaven on Earth.

Now more than ever, young people need camp. They need to explore nature and stretch their boundaries. They need a loving community where they feel safe to be the people God created them to be. You can help by making a donation to Cross Roads. Fees cover less than half the actual cost of hosting each camper. We also offer generous camperships to help families who can't afford even our modest fees. Cross Roads is there for youth because of the support of generous donors.



A special thanks to all the ladies who volunteered last month at the Midland Park Community Thrift Shop. They each volunteered 2 hours the third week of April.

Janet Godwin	Marilyn Rubner
Alba Fekete	Grace Slingerland
Kathy Michelli	Eleonore Wattenbach
Nancy Oshinskie	Edie Baglieri

Messiah receives money from the thrift shop each quarter from the resale of clothing donated by you! Donation can be left near the coat closet and are brought to the thrift shop on a regular basis.



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

**What you need:**

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



**What you do:**

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree – or give it as a Mother’s Day gift.

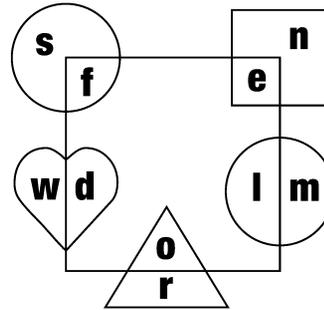


# GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God’s care for his creation?

**Directions:**

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild \_\_\_\_\_  
grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even \_\_\_\_\_  
in all his splendor was \_\_\_\_\_  
like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV