

# The MESSENGER

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



Messiah Lutheran Church  
Rev. Julie Haspel, Pastor  
Church phone: 201-337-4900  
Email: [info@messiahoaklandnj.org](mailto:info@messiahoaklandnj.org)



SUNDAY WORSHIP  
Contemporary Worship: 8:45am  
Traditional Worship: 10:00am

2017

## Independence Day lessons for church life

- **Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- **Honor the gift of freedom** — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.  
—Heidi Mann

## Love’s lesson

A new school year promises new adventures, challenges and friends — as well as new classes, homework and lessons. But the most important (and simplest) lesson we can learn is summed up by 19th-century hymn writer Jane Eliza Leeson:

*Savior, teach me day by day  
love’s sweet lesson to obey,  
sweeter lesson cannot be,  
loving him who first loved me.*



## **Pentecost – the Season of Growth**

As I sit to write this note, I can look out my window and see Summer in bloom. It's not quite full bloom, but the warm weather and the rains have certainly done their part to make the earth lush and green. So much of this change has taken place without our being aware. The seeds and plants have been dormant over the winter and almost like magic, they spring forth.

Anyone who knows anything about plants and gardens knows that it isn't magic that brings forth a garden, it's planning, toil, and work. This is how I see these summer months at Messiah. It may look like we're in cruise control for ministry, but there is a great deal of planning and preparation for this coming fall.

As you may know, this fall will be joyous as we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. To help us prepare, we will have a special viewing of the newest Luther movie that was recently released. That showing will take place at Messiah on October 11.

As we move ahead with our preparations, we will continue to be the church celebrating the Blessing of the Back Packs, Rally Day, an evening of Stewardship with Pastor Scott Schantzenbach, the startup of our new Book Club, a Pet Blessing, a visit from Pastor Kimberly Vaughn, Assistant to the Bishop, watching Rick Steve's Christmas in Germany DVD, while working on sending our Youth to Houston next June! All of this will take place before Advent.

Indeed the Spirit is working in and through us. We are certainly blessed!

Pastor Julie

# WHAT'S HAPPENING at Messiah



**The summer schedule will be through September 3**

**8:45am Contemporary Service.** Contemporary service will be outdoors on the first Sunday of the month (July 2, August 6, and September 3) weather permitting.

**10:00am Traditional Service**

*Fellowship & refreshments after both services.*

**Saturday, July 15, 9:00am: Property Work Day** Bring your work gloves, yard tools. Tools to bring if you can: leaf rakes, trimming shears, pruning shears, tree saw.

*Everyone is welcome – we have work for all!*



**Sunday, July 23, 11:00am: Baby Shower Coffee Hour.** Please join us for a baby shower to help mothers in need. Refreshments will be served. Please bring a baby gift, either unwrapped or in a gift bag.

**Saturday, August 5, 9:00am: Property Work Day**

**August 7-11, 9:00am-1:00pm: Oakland Community Vacation Bible School at Ponds Church.** Must preregister.

**Sunday, September 3: The Blessing of the Backpacks** at both services.



**Sunday, September 10 Rally Day!** Starting at 10am join us for Worship, celebrating with the best of both contemporary and traditional music. It will be a festive day as we will celebrate **Rally Day with a joint service.** At 10am Following worship, we will join together in our annual Picnic to kick off a new year together.

**Sunday, September 17, 9:45am: Sunday School Resumes!**

# Council Highlights

June 21, 2017

- † Council voted to sponsor summer camp in Bosnia thru the NJ Synod at a cost of \$2,600.
- † Messiah is not exempt from action relating to the Ramapo Mountain Lakes legal case.
- † Council voted to accept the proposal for a Canon business copier.
- † Council voted to accept the bid from Almighty Tree Experts to remove 2 trees at the parsonage at a cost not to exceed \$1,600.
- † The steps at the parsonage back door need replacement by either new steps or possibly a deck.
- † A refrigerator has been donated for the church kitchen. Some cabinet adjustments need to be made to accommodate the larger refrigerator.
- † A book discussion group will begin in September meeting once a month beginning September 25.
- † Final tally of donations to St Paul's Shelter were 45 pillows and 46 pillowcases.



- ❖ Thank you to the hardy crew who came down on a hot and sunny Saturday morning on June 10<sup>th</sup> to plant shrubs in front of the church and spread mulch. Our two hours of toil resulted in a colorful bed in front of the Sanctuary facing Route 202 and we cleared and mulched paths in the courtyard. Many thanks to Carol King, Arnold, Joan and Amy Ludke, Ron Rubner, and Terry and Andrew Vollmin. We invite anyone available to help us finish mulching the courtyard on Thursday evening, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- ❖ Many thanks to the Vollmin and Boyce families for donating a much-needed refrigerator for the church kitchen!



## **C.F.A. Garden**

### Plants are growing!

Everything is growing and God has been taking care of the watering. There are definitely a lot of weeds and some critters are helping themselves to our first crops of lettuce and string beans.

Please sign up on the chart in the narthex to help weed the garden and pick vegetables during the growing season. It just takes a few minutes to pick vegetables or even weed if kept up regularly.

### **HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A SUMMER VACATION**



Many Center for Food Action (CFA) clients are children who receive breakfast AND lunch at school. Of course, if there is no school, there are no meals. This means that the need at the CFA is greater than ever. Unfortunately, the summer months are when food donations decline the most. If you are able, please buy an extra box of cereal, Parmalat milk, peanut butter or jelly, fruit cups, 100% juice, granola bars – all those kid-friendly and nutritious items. Just put the items in shopping cart by the fireplace. Thanks for your generosity.

### **Baby Shower Coffee Hour**

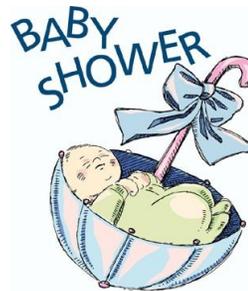
Sunday, July 23, 11:00am

Please join us for a baby shower to help mothers in need. Refreshments will be served. Please bring a baby gift, either unwrapped or in a gift bag.

Suggested items:

- Baby care (diapers size 1-5, wipes, diaper ointment, pacifiers, tethers, brush/comb, nail clippers, thermometer, baby books)
- Bath items (towels, wash cloths, baby wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion, powder)
- Bedding items (crib sheets, receiving blankets)
- Baby clothes (bibs, onesies, gowns, burp clothes, sleepers, outfits, socks, shoes)
- Mommy care (nursing pads, lotion)

All gifts will be donated to a local pregnancy resource center which supplies items to new mothers in need. Please stay tuned for more information at church and in upcoming emails.

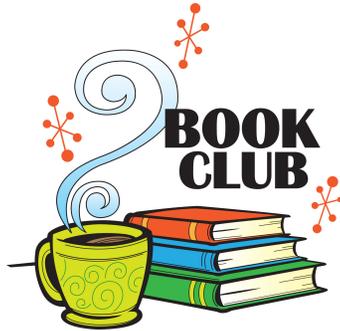




*<sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Romans 12:4–8*

On Sunday, September 3, we will hold a Blessing of the backpacks at both services. This blessing will be for anyone who uses their backpack, briefcase, laptops, I-Pads, or other bag in their daily lives. We will pray God's blessing, as well as offer prayers for safety for the coming year. See you there!

## Attention All Readers!



This September we will begin a book discussion group at Messiah Lutheran Church. Members, family and friends are all welcome.

We will meet once a month at 7:30 on a Monday evening to discuss the book for the month. Books have been selected for the first three months. After that, the group will decide what to read and discuss. Topics will vary, and we expect that they will encompass a wide spectrum of authors and titles. The schedule for the Fall is as follows:

September 25 – Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo

October 23 – The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

November 27 – Joshua by Joseph F. Girzone

As you might expect, “coffee and...” will be served.

Please consider joining us – every month or as time and interest permit. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Julie, Joan Ludke, Sharon Monk or me.

Eleanore Orman for the Dream Team

## **Support for NJ Synod Bosnia Servant Trip**

At our last meeting, the Church Council voted unanimously to support our Synod's Bosnia International Servant Trip. We voted to fully sponsor the Trnopolje Friendship Camp. This small town experienced some of the worst of the 1992 – 1996 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There were deportations, persecutions, killings, and the establishment of a Concentration Camp in this town.

This one day Friendship Camp brings together children of different religions to forge a bridge of friendship and peacemakers through therapeutic art and music activities, diversity training mixed in with hugs, love and lots of fun!

The cost to sponsor the camp is \$2600. The Council voted to take the money from our recent memorial bequest and use a portion of what we agreed to tithe from those monies. Please go to [www.facebook.com/BosniaIST](http://www.facebook.com/BosniaIST) to learn more and see the impact of the Synod's ministry to this area.

### **JULY BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

#### ***Cross Roads***

Their mission is to joyfully experience God and creation through faith, fellowship and fun. Cross Roads is a beautiful retreat center and camp for all ages and all types of spiritual and secular groups. They are located on 250 mountaintop acres in the beautiful Highlands of northwestern New Jersey.

Now more than ever, young people need camp. You can help by making a donation to Cross Roads. Fees cover less than half the actual cost of hosting each camper. They also offer generous camperships to help families who can't afford even their modest fees.

<http://crossroadsretreat.com/>

### **AUGUST BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

#### ***Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey***

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey's (LSMNJ) mission is to serve residents statewide who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices – regardless of religious background or affiliation.

LSMNJ began as an orphanage in Jersey City and has broadened its focus to serve the state's ever-changing population. Today, besides being one of New Jersey's largest providers of affordable housing, LSMNJ provides a wide range of essential programs, including immigration and refugee services, a homeless day shelter, special needs housing, adoption, food pantry support, and varying levels of senior care and retirement living. Check out [http://www.lsmnj.org/media/ReachingOutFlyer\\_0314.pdf](http://www.lsmnj.org/media/ReachingOutFlyer_0314.pdf) for more information.



**To All Members of Messiah Lutheran Church**

**Total Income in May was \$16.9K versus expenses of \$17.2K, resulting in a deficit of \$.3K. YTD Total Income is \$88.6K versus YTD Total Expenses of \$92.7K. YTD there is a deficit of \$4.1K.**

**Restricted Accounts increased \$.1K, from \$136.5K to \$136.6K in May. There is a net increase of \$57.3K since January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Cash Accounts (Checking and Savings) decreased \$.3K, from \$132.7K to \$132.4K in May. There is a net increase of \$56.5K since January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Ron Rubner  
Treasurer**

Year to Date - May 2017

	Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Income Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	84,483.00	81,546.00	82,111.00
02, Mission Support	8,042.00	7,018.00	7,435.00
Total Income	\$92,525.00	\$88,564.00	\$89,546.00
Expense Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	82,702.00	82,846.00	82,288.00
02, Mission Support	9,750.00	9,859.00	10,003.00
Total Expenses	\$92,452.00	\$92,705.00	\$92,291.00
Income Less Expense	\$73.00	(\$4,141.00)	(\$2,745.00)