



# Messiah Messenger

October 2017

***Messiah's Mission:*** *To know Christ and to make Christ known through the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian Education, fellowship, outreach and service.*

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Well, it's finally here! October 2017, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation! And as you know we have a few special things in our schedule this month – something every Sunday!

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Regular 8:30-9:45-11:00, and **Harvest Dinner** after late service.

**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** – Regular 8:30-9:45-11:00, and we celebrate **LWML Sunday** and bless the quilts.

**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** – SS & Classes **8:45**, Worship **10 AM** – with District-wide Reformation Concert and Service at **4 PM** in Lansing at the Breslin Center.

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Regular 8:30-9:45-11:00 and we'll have **Stewardship/Commitment Sunday**.

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** – SS & Classes **8:45**, Worship **10 AM** – **Reformation Sunday**, with **Dinner** following late service.

I look forward to all the opportunities to be with you and lead you as we thank and praise our God for all His good gifts to us!

One of His good gifts was the man, Martin Luther, who through the working of the Holy Spirit through the Word, came to a clear understanding of the Gospel's free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. That message of justification by grace through faith continues onward in our church today.

One of Luther's gifts to the world was his Small Catechism. We know about the 6 chief parts – we've been reciting them throughout the "green season" as is our custom. But Luther also had a section of daily prayers. We're familiar with the Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer – we use them in the Service of Prayer and Preaching on Sunday mornings and for midweek services.

During our men's retreat this past month, we made use of Luther's meal prayers at every meal, asking a blessing before and returning thanks afterward. They go like this:

### **Asking a Blessing Before A Meal**

*All members of the household shall go to the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:*

**The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.**

*Then shall be said the **Lord's Prayer** and the following:*

**Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **Returning Thanks After A Meal**

*Also, after eating, they shall, in like manner, reverently and with folded hands say:*

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. He gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.**

*Then shall be said the **Lord's Prayer** and the following:*

**We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

You might be saying, "Wow! If we did that at every meal, we'd be saying the Lord's Prayer **SIX** times a day!" Well, Luther also encouraged the Lord's Prayer (and the Apostle's Creed) to go with those morning and evening prayers – so it would be **EIGHT** times a day.

Just as I encouraged Messiah's men – I encourage you to make frequent use of these prayers and the Lord's Prayer. "But it will just become mindless repetition," you might say. When it becomes so ingrained in you that you can easily repeat it, then it can become MINDFUL repetition. "Thy will be done" – as you pray you think where has your will been butting up against God's? "Give us this day our daily bread" – thinking how so quickly food and shelter can be here one day and gone the next like they were in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, and looking to God to always sustain us day-by-day. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Are you holding any grudges? What have you done against God's law, and who might you have hurt? This prayer covers it all, and Luther's instruction to use it frequently is to our benefit! We reap the blessings of God's good gift to us in Jesus Christ when we pray His prayer!

God bless you as we celebrate this time of Reformation!

Your brother in Christ,

*Pastor Bartzsch*

## Messiah Updates and October Events

**FOOD PANTRY-** Social Ministries needs your help again in stocking our pantry. Items especially needed: Soups, canned fruits, vegetables, spaghetti, rice, cereals, cake mixes, puddings, jell-o, tuna fish, mac & cheese and jelly. Thanks for caring and for your help. Any questions please call Dale Reinke, 365-8325.

**IT IS OUR FALL CLEAN-UP TIME ALREADY!** **Saturday, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> at 8:00 am** is the date that the Trustees will sponsor this important day. We have had very good turnouts on previous clean-up days and encourage you to join us again to ready the church for our busy holiday season. We work from 8 am to 12 pm or until you wish to leave. Any help is welcome. We start out with a nice breakfast and you choose your project. We supply the tools etc. needed to do the work. Please plan on helping Oct. 14th and working with fellow members of all ages taking care of this beautiful property. Questions? Call Carol Mushong. No experience necessary.



**BLESSING OF QUILTS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** What a joy it must be for a needy family to receive a quilt to keep warm, use as a door or room divider or many innovative uses. Also for a school age child to be given a school bag full of supplies. We at Messiah have been so blessed and the Lutheran World Relief Organization has such a need for these items. Many members donated sheets, material, school bags and supplies and with

God's help, made this possible.

Sixty-five quilts and forty school bags with supplies were prepared and sent to needy countries. All the material and supplies were donated and prepared by members of Messiah, to be taken to a designated station for shipping.

We must give special thanks to God for giving us all the people who donated and prepare these wonderful items. Just a reminder, we are always accepting sheets, fabric and supplies for making the quilts.



**DISTRICT REFORMATION SERVICE UPDATE** We have our tickets for all Messiah folks who've signed up; Doors open for the service on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm; preservice concert at 4 pm. service at 5 pm.** Folks attending from West Michigan are encouraged to bring canned and boxed food items to the service as an ingathering for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.



**BOWLING LEAGUE BEGINS!!!!** The bowling league begins **Sunday, October 15<sup>TH</sup> at 3:00 pm** at **Northfield Lanes on Plainfield.** We bowl every other Sunday through April and the cost is \$11 per person, which includes bowling and a prize fund used towards a season ending banquet. Substitute bowlers are always welcome and will be charged \$9.50. If you are interested in bowling, come join us at Northfield Lanes on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Joanne Gillette at 365-2760.

**THINKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR,** the TRUSTEES are asking members to prayerfully consider joining our board for a two year term. We are in great need of new members to help care for this facility and property for the next term. We do a vital service here at Messiah and would love to hear from you. If you would ask Lee Cobb, Mark Altemann, Carol Mushong or any other trustee, we would be happy to answer any questions.

**GOOD NEWS:** Is a new discussion group for preschool parents that is being formed by Sharon Hula & Laura Altemann. It will **meet in the first hour of Messiah Preschool on Thursday mornings.** We will be using the GOOD NEWS Magazine. "Our Good Shepherd" is the first topic we will study and discuss. We need volunteers to provide free nursery supervision for young siblings so their parents can attend this GOOD NEWS Discussion Group. Please let Sharon Hula or Rick Krueger know if you are available and willing to help. We feel this will be a great outreach opportunity.

## Messiah Updates and October Events Con't.

**PASTOR BARTZSCH AND THE ELDERS** thank the congregation for their generosity in donating **\$1052.00** for hurricane relief last Sunday.

**"YOUTH REUNION"** planned for **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 pm.** here **at church!** If you are 18 to 30something and have been involved with Messiah's Youth Group in years past OR are new and would like to connect with current and former members, this social event is for you. Weather permitting, join us for a bonfire in the church pavilion area. Bring a snack to share, your family and friends! See Facebook event under LIFT or Messiah's home page. Questions? See Sabrina Slagter, Casey O'Rourke or any LIFT member.



### **SIGN UP FOR TRUNK OR TREAT!**

Messiah's 8th annual **Trunk or Treat** is set for **Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5 pm.** Welcoming our church, preschool and community families, this event connects us with hundreds of children every year!

This year, we will have trunks with treats in our parking lot, and an indoor carnival in our Fellowship Hall with games for kids to play. It's a chance for us to build relationships with the folks we've connected with in our community!

We need plenty of volunteers and donations of food to help make this year's Trunk or Treat a success. Please consider helping by:

- Donating bags of pre-wrapped candy. Look for donation boxes near the mailboxes and the Welcome Center.
- Signing up to donate other food – check out the sign-up sheet.
- Signing up to bring your car and pass out treats from your trunk. Cars can be decorated or undecorated; you can wear costumes or come as you are. We're looking for at least 25 trunks full of treats this year!
- Signing up to help with
  - carnival games for kids
  - serving popcorn and juice in our fellowship hall.
  - parking cars and directing our guests to the trunks, the treats, and more!

Sign-up sheets will be on the Welcome Center and on the clipboard in Bible classes. Thanks for your willingness to help! Please contact Rick Krueger with any questions.

### **REFORMATION 500th ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Board of Elders is sponsoring a dinner immediately following the **10:00 am service on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.** The menu includes Frankenmuth Chicken Casserole, assorted sides, dessert and beverage. There will be a free will offering. Please join us!

### **HERE COMES WELCOME SUNDAY**



Get ready to meet your new brothers and sisters in Christ on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>!** We will hold one worship service that day at **10 am**, during which we'll welcome our new members from recent months. Sunday School and Bible class will be held earlier, at **8:45 am.**

Following the service, we'll introduce our new members as part of the Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner festivities – see the article just above! Make your plans and mark your calendars to be with us as we give thanks to God for the people he brings into our fellowship!

## Messiah Updates and October Events Con't.

**OUR SECOND ANNUAL REVIVAL OF THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER** is set for **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**. We already have a group to host the appetizer course, **beginning at church at 3:00 p.m.** From there you will be given maps to the next destinations. We are in need of hosts for the Soups/ Salads, Main Course, and Desserts, as well as cooks to help the hosts supply the food for that course. If you are willing to host or supply a dish, please contact Tammy Ahrens (616-430-1182 or email [d\\_a\\_49548@yahoo.com](mailto:d_a_49548@yahoo.com)) or Marlene Anderson (616-822-5113 or email [mkanderson21@yahoo.com](mailto:mkanderson21@yahoo.com)). Please watch the weekly church bulletins for updates.

## From the Parish Assistant's Desk



### ALL SAINTS DAY

*Our churches teach that the remembrance of the saints is to be commended in order that we may imitate their faith and good works according to our calling.*

– Augsburg Confession, Article 21

On **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** we'll celebrate All Saints Sunday, moved from November 1. (Our culture's name for October 31, Hallowe'en, comes from its original name of *All Hallows (Saints) Eve* – just like Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.)

In our worship services on November 5, we'll thank God for his mercy to those who have departed this life in faith and now live eternally with Him in heaven. All members of Messiah who have passed away since All Saints Sunday of 2016 will be included.

We would be happy to include your late Christian loved ones or friends in our commemoration. Please note: names of those who have passed away since October 2016 will be *read*; those who passed away before then will be *silently included* in the commemoration and listed in the service folder. A display will be placed on the welcome center beginning **Sunday, October 1**. Please write the name or names of the saints you'd like included on one of the slips found there, then return the slip to the display.

Thanks for your participation in this celebration of God's grace!

### NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

The choir schedule for October is as follows:

<b>Sunday, 10/1</b>	Senior Choir	<b>8:30 am</b>
<b>Sunday, 10/8</b>	Sunday School	<b>11:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday, 10/15</b>	Rhythm Section & Singers	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday, 10/29</b>	Senior Choir	<b>10:00 am</b>

In the weeks before the District Reformation service on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Senior Choir will practice on **Wednesdays at 7 pm**, covering music for Messiah services until 7:45 pm, then working on District service music until 8:30 pm. There will be no Senior Choir practice on **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**; weekly practices will resume on **October 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Rhythm Section and Singers will practice their music for October 15<sup>th</sup> (including a new song for worship, *Sing to the King*) in the coming weeks. If you're interested in singing or playing with this group, contact Rick Krueger for more details!

## From the Parish Assistant's Desk Con't.

During October, we'll start using *Divine Service Setting Four* for communion services, along with a variety of orders on non-communion Sundays. We'll also conclude *Praying the Catechism* for this year, focusing on Confession and the Sacrament of the Altar. Finally, watch for plenty of hymns by Martin Luther this month, as we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation!

## For the Ladies

**THE ALTAR GUILD FALL MEETING** is scheduled for **NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**. It is very important that all members, especially the team leaders, attend as we plan for fall activities that are our responsibility. We encourage any member who would like to help with what we do, come to this meeting. No obligations. We offer a unique way for you to serve the Lord. If you have questions, please contact Carol Mushong or just come to this meeting. Please mark you calendar for Nov. 4th at 9 am.

**PRAYER PALS - Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 pm**, all ladies of the congregation are invited to join us at church for our semi-annual Prayer Pals revealing dinner. This is a great way to meet and get to know our sisters-in-Christ at Messiah, as well as share a time of prayer and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share for dinner, as well as a small gift for the lady you have been praying for. If you would like to join for the first time or are ready to join again, please just come. We would love to have you with us. Please call Marlene Anderson (616-822-5113) with any questions.



**SANDY'S TRADITION** will meet for dinner, **5:00 pm, on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**, at Applebee's on the Beltline, 3250 Grand Ridge Dr. NE. Please RSVP to Pat Hoffman (784-5817) by the day before.

**FALL CONCERT: "Bobby Socks and Beehives"**, at Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, **Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**. \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Mary Rademacher and her musicians will perform hits from the 1950's & 1960's. If interested contact Judy Gerke by October 15th at 363-8412

## Other Items

**CHURCH EXTENSION FUND:** Did you know that Church Extension Fund is not a credit union or bank but a non-profit corporation of our Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, designed to allow you to see your savings dollars build and expand the mission and ministry of sister congregations (and very likely your own)? If you know, thank you for being a partner in this ministry. If you didn't know, then consider how God's abundance to you can be invested in Church Extension and used for the blessing of many. You can visit CEF online at [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org) or call 800-242-3944.



**WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS** - "Worship for Shut-Ins" is a Lutheran television 30 minute worship service with no commercials or repeats. It is not a tape of a Sunday morning service, but a special taping done just for the viewer at home. Worship for Shut-Ins airs locally **Sunday mornings at 11:30 am** on Comcast (channel 21), Charter (channel 2), AT&T (channel 54), and DirecTV (channel 377). Services may also be viewed online at [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org)

**October 1, 2017 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)**

**"Heat or Light?" - Sermon Text:** Philippians 2:14-16 – Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

**October 8, 2017 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22)**

**"God's Vineyard" - Sermon Text:** Matthew 21:33-46 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

**October 15, 2017 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23)**

**"The Wedding Feast" - Sermon Text:** Matthew 22:1-14 - Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege

**October 22, 2017 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)**

**"Are We There Yet?" - Sermon Text:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 - Rev. William Mueller

**October 29, 2017 – Reformation Day Observed**

**"Living in the Freedom of Faith" - Sermon Text:** Galatians 5:1-2, 13-16 - Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz



**IN OUR PRAYERS:**

- ✦ Those with immediate prayer concerns: **Rita VanEtten, Wayne Hrabovsky**, friend of Victor VanEtten; **Pennye Hart**, sister-in-law of Marcie Merkle; **Judy Spencer, Shirley Lang, Toni Dells**, friend of Bill & Rita VanEtten; **Cindy Larson**, daughter-in-law of Elaine Jingles; **Pat Ball**, friend of Joe & Becky Buss; **Brian Markin**, brother-in-law of Joe & Becky Buss; **Correne Cober**, former member; **Elaine Jingles, Wilma Mitchell**, friend of Victor VanEtten; **Peter VanLente**, nephew of Judy Spencer; **Bob Mates**, Blind Ministry contact; **Heather Hilton-Lynch**, daughter of Sam & Joann Hilton; **Doug Davis**, brother of Al Davis; **Steffanie Andrus**, daughter-in-law of Colleen Andrus; **Nancy Jackson**, mother of Phil & Sharon Fahling's son-in-law; **Dennis Claypool**, friend of Victor VanEtten; **Dave Merkle; Bernice Washinifski**, friend of Judy Spencer, **Bill Brinkman; Jean Hulst**, friend of Bill & Rita VanEtten.
- ✦ Those with ongoing prayer concerns: **Dawn Feorene**, niece of Elaine Jingles; **Robert Neuman**, brother of Theona Gee; **Paul Garchow**, brother of Pete Garchow; **Gen Abrams**, past Chairman of our Rapid Waters Zone LWML; **Alexis White**, granddaughter of Rev. & Rosy Masih; **Dawn Metivier**, mother of Leah Kearney; **Carol Shick**, friend of Nyha French; **Jessica Santa Clara; Kathy Mueller; Tina Eikenroth**, friend of Matt VanEtten; **Simon Leavit**, grandson of Bob & Jan Ringel, former members.
- ✦ Those serving in the military: **Eric Gerke**, grandson of Judy Gerke; **Dan Gerke**, son of Judy Gerke; **Clinton Gibson**, son in law of Bill & Diane Legate; **Randy Tanis**, great nephew of Marcie Merkle, **Jacob Teeple**, grand nephew of Mark & Laura Altemann; **Andrew Feigel**, nephew of Al & Renee Davis; **Joseph Lueders**, nephew of John & Ruth Lueders and **Raymond Bartman**, son of Carla Bartman.
- ✦ Our Missionaries: **Pastor Masih & Pastor James.**
- ✦ For **Tahseen Kanwal** (daughter of Pastor and Rosy Masih) and husband, **Imran**, their children **Rain** and **Trinity** and the twins, **Riley** and **Leslie**. That they are able to remain in safety and good health as refugees in Sri Lanka until the way is made clear for them to join the rest of the family here in the United States.

## **SERVING YOU . . .**

**Staff:**

Rev. Tom Bartzsch, Pastor

Mr. Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant

Mrs. Sandy Goodlander, Office Manager

Mrs. Mildred Rathbun, Office Assistant

Mrs. Vonda Smestad, Pre-school Director