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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter November it will not be long before we celebrate Thanksgiving then Advent and Christmas. With Thanksgiving a few weeks away let me share with you a story entitled "**The Day the Sun didn't Shine**".

"In 1883, it is said that in New England the sun didn't rise! The people awoke to an eerie darkness. They went outside to do their chores in stony silence. No rooster crowed, no birds chirping, none of the usual sounds of a new day. At the very start, people began to gather in small

groups to question what was happening, to wonder and discuss what was taking place. Slowly, people began to make their way to the churches. They say that by twelve noon every church in New England was filled to overflowing with people on their knees crying out to God. There were cries for mercy, people begging for forgiveness and others confessing their sins. They say that there were few people who didn't pray the day the sun didn't rise. The churches were full late into the night.

As the next morning neared, great crowds began to gather on the hilltops and the high places near their homes and churches. People were staring toward the eastern horizon. Every eye was fixed on that point where the sky touched the land. Every eye watching, hoping to catch a glimmer of the first rays of the sun. As the sun began to come up over the horizon, people began to shout and yell praises to God, they clapped, danced and rejoiced because the sun shined on the land again. As if in one voice, they began to praise the Lord for the sunlight, the warmth and the joy of God's new day.

They had no idea that on the Island nation of Indonesia, the sleeping giant of a volcano, Krakatoa, had come to life. They had no idea that this great mountain exploded and sent a huge cloud of dust and ash into the upper atmosphere. This black cloud would be carried around the world by the jet stream. It was said to cover whole regions, covering the sky from horizon to horizon. Few people had any idea that a volcano, half way around the world, could create such a cloud that could block out the sun. Yet for most of those people that was the very first time they ever thanked God for the warmth and wonder of the sun."

We often don't miss anything until it is gone. We will have an opportunity to lift up our prayers and thanksgivings to God at our Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on November 21. Having this worship opportunity is good, but let us approach every day in every month in every year thanking God for His perpetual grace, mercy, and peace that He showers upon us constantly. And as we, in faith, understand His blessings; let us use those blessings to be a blessing to others.

May God's blessings work in and through us all.

Pastor Allen Stuckwisch



November 18, 2018

9:00am Education Hour

10:00am Single Blended Service

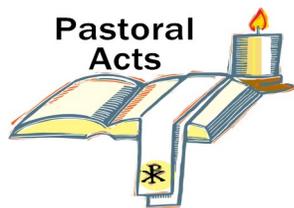
11:00am Thrivent members hosted

lunch (supporting Graceworks Lutheran Services Enhanced Living Homes)

11:45 am Voters' Meeting

Upcoming Events

Nov 3 Chili Cook Off
Nov 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 6 Election Day
Nov 10 Hands Against Hunger
Packing Event
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 14 Prince of Peace
Thanksgiving Dinner
Nov 18 Voters' Meeting
Nov 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov 25 Christ the King Sunday



Pastor co-officiated at the funeral service for **Miriam Schmithorst** on October 6. Our prayers and sympathies to her family.

Congratulations:

Chris Todd—Confirmation on
September 23, 2018

Meghan Harrison—Baptism on
September 23, 2018



From the Elders

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Next month we celebrate the birth of Christ. God's indescribable gift to us. We will have many opportunities to practice giving. What fun it will be to make or buy just the right gifts for the people on our lists! What could be just the right gift for Mom? How will you make your first Christmas as husband and wife special? Which special cause could your family support this year to help people out of poverty in this world?

2 Corinthians 9 offers wonderful guidelines for giving. **Give generously. Give willingly and from the heart. Above all, give cheerfully,** for in giving we have an opportunity to **reflect God's generosity to us.** When we follow these guidelines, our giving will not leave us stressed out but overflowing with gratitude to God.

This passage also reminds us that giving has many forms. Our gifts may be monetary, or they could be things we do for others and for God. Babysitting for a couple at church, mowing the grass for an elderly neighbor, bringing a meal to a sick person, or serving as an usher, reader, greeter, sound board technician, altar society member or elder. All of these things are ways we can give, show our obedience and praise for our God.

Giving ourselves in earnest prayer for others may be one of the greatest gifts we can give. There are numerous events such as the Chili Cook Off and Progressive Dinner where we are able to interact and communicate with other church members. As we look forward to Advent, we need to remember to thank God for his indescribable gift, salvation in Jesus Christ.

The Elders

Chuck Degenhardt, John Hiler, Shawn Horner, Tom Mueller, Rick Walter

Our Thanksgiving Eve Service

will be celebrated on

Wednesday, November 21 at 7 pm.

- Please bring a bag of food or non-perishables for donation to SOUL Ministries to share with those less fortunate. (Checks may be made out to Tri-County SOUL Ministries.)
- Other monetary gifts will go to Lutheran World Relief.

Join us for coffee and snacks after the service.





From the Congregation President

November is an important month for Messiah congregation. **On November 18th, we will have the final Voters' Meeting of the Year.** This is the voters meeting where the **2019 Ministry Plan** is submitted to the congregation for approval and the **2019 Budget** to support the newly approved Ministry Plan is voted on. We also will elect our **2019 Leadership team.** As of the writing of this letter, the leadership slate still has open positions for Elder (1), Family Ministries (2), Care Coordinator (1) and Hospitality Coordinator (1). These are excellent opportunities to provide Christian service while utilizing the skills that God has given you. Please consider serving if asked.....or even better, volunteer!

The Ministry Plan lays out the **goals and expectations for the paid staff of Messiah** that are at the end of the year used as a basis of **Staff Performance Reviews.** Participation at the November voters' meeting is a good way for congregation members to participate in the **goal setting process.**

The budget that will be proposed by the Leadership Team ties into the recently completed 2019 stewardship drive (which helps us forecast 2019 income). **The budget we pass for 2019 must align with expected income and also support the 2019 Ministry Plan.** Our 2018 budget is running a deficit. Our cash reserves are being depleted. The past three years the voters at Messiah have passed deficit budgets. With tight fist ed cost control and the available funds from the DCE Reserve Fund, we were able to close out those years with minimal depletion of our cash reserves. **The 2019 budget will be different as we will have less funds available from the DCE reserve fund.** We must be more conservative in our budgeting and are **looking to create a balanced budget that will not further deplete our cash reserves.** The Leadership Team has been looking at our existing ministries to evaluate effectiveness. Which ministries we keep and which ones we let go is a difficult decision. **It is important that we have good congregation participation at this voters' meeting.** The entire congregation needs to support the 2019 Ministry Plan and Budget.

2018 Messiah Giving and Expenses	
Sept Income	\$31,917
Sept Expenses	\$29,792
	\$2,125
Year to Date Income	\$265,161
Year to Date Expenses	\$278,803
	(\$13,642)

YTD Expenses are under the budget by \$32,278

YTD Giving is under budget by \$14,223 [Getting Better](#)

Funds available for current activities is \$26,326 [Getting Better](#)

(\$13,642) was **(\$15,767)** in Aug. [Getting Better](#)

Thanksgiving Dinners



One other important activity in November will be another opportunity to support **the Prince of Peace Congregation in Over-the-Rhine.** Last year Messiah was asked to join with another congregation and put on a **Pre-Thanksgiving Meal for the homeless in OTR,** a Cincinnati downtown neighborhood. **This year the meal will be Wednesday November 14th** and we are being asked to **put on the entire meal ourselves.** This is the biggest free meal of the year for the homeless in OTR and they look forward to it with great anticipation. Pastor Suguitan makes sure this is a special meal by providing a dining experience where the homeless are served by waiters while sitting at tables with table cloths and place settings. The homeless are lined up for hours and it usually takes two or three seating's to get everyone fed. **Messiah will need to provide 20 servers.** (It was a wonderful experience last year.)Others will be needed to prepare side dishes. We will meet at church at about 4:45 PM to carpool downtown. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.** Please consider helping to make this a special dinner for our less fortunate neighbors in downtown Cincinnati.



CHILI COOK-OFF

On **Saturday evening, November 3rd, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for another Messiah Chili Cook-off. There will be good food, fun, fellowship and prizes.

Sign-up by **October 28th** to enter your chili — poster on narthex bulletin board

HANDS AGAINST HUNGER™



a life saving ministry of A Child's Hope Int'l

www.TheChildrenAreWaiting.org



Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota

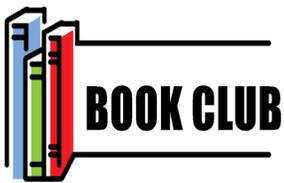
Please mark your calendar for the **Hands Against Hunger Event**, November 10th 9 to noon at A Child's Hope International, 2430 E. Kemper Road, Sharonville (the old McSwain's Carpet building). This is a great service activity for the whole family. Additional information is on the table in the narthex .

Donations and registrations at
www.thechildrenarewaiting.org/thrivent/.



FALL WORK DAY

Our Fall work day at Messiah will be on **Saturday, November 17th**. We will start at **9:00 a.m.** and plan to be finished by noon. It's a great opportunity for fellowship as we work together to clean up the grounds and get the building ready for winter. Please bring your yard tools, rakes, clippers, trimmers, etc. There will be both outdoor and indoor projects to help with. Hope to see you there!



Book Club will meet at the home of **Barb Degenhardt**, 3547 Lee's Ford, Hamilton 45011 at 2:30 p.m. on November 11 to discuss the book "The Color of Fear" by **Marcia Muller**. This latest Sharon McCone Mystery centers on her father (a Shoshone artist) becoming the victim of a racial motivated attack. Come join us for a lively discussion!

OWLS



No **OWLS** in November. We will travel to **Music Hall on Wednesday, December 12** for a 10:30 a.m. Christmas concert featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ in the ballroom. Sign the list in the narthex if you'd like to get a ticket for \$24.

Upcoming Artworks program on Wednesday, January 16 (note the change of day) This will feature the story behind all of the beautiful wall murals in downtown Cincinnati (and Finneytown, too). We are selling tickets (\$5 each) as this program costs \$175, so please sign the sheet if you'd like to be included!!



Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 PM. The blended service on November 18 is a great opportunity to give choir a try! We will meet at 8:45 that morning to practice. We are looking forward to singing for Advent and Christmas Eve. Consider joining us! Many anthems will be familiar and if you can rehearse at least once, you are welcome to join us. With the exception noted above, choir meets at 7PM on Wednesdays and 8AM on Sundays. All ages and abilities welcome!

Contact **Cathy Carson** at 513-824-1241 or cathycarson82@gmail.com



A BIG thankyou to **Phil and Megan Harrison, Judy Stroeh, Holly and Ellie Yeats, De Stuckwisch, Bunny Doebling, Barb Degenhardt, Joan, Norah, and Amira Ramahi, Poppy and Owen Magill, Hailey Robertson, Josh Tanzer, Oliver, Joan, and Bill Rieger, Rick and Sandy Walter** for working the pumpkin decorating booth at the Greenhills Harvest Festival.

It was a very hot and busy day. Your time and help were greatly appreciated. All who worked were given a new Messiah T shirt. We have a few size adult medium and large for sale for \$5.00 each. We will be happy to order more in other sizes. See **Sandy Walter** to order a shirt.

Tuesday, November 13, we will be taking a meal to the **Edge House at UC**. We leave from Messiah at 5:15pm and return by 7:00pm. Call **Sandy Walter** if you would like to help or go along. (829-4346)

The next meal outreach is taking to **Prince of Peace is December 12th**. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Along with blankets we will be collecting socks, hats, gloves, scarves all in adult sizes for men and women. There will be tubs in the narthex for these items.



The focus for this month is one of the LWML Ohio Mission Grants approved by the June 2018 Convention. That focus is the Support for the Center of Refuge Orphanage in Jacmel, Haiti in the amount of \$12,000. Messiah groups have supported this mission at times during past few years. Your mites can make a powerful impact.



VOTER'S MEETING LUNCH

The lunch before the November Voter's Meeting is a **benefit for Graceworks Lutheran Services Enhanced Living Homes** (previously known as We Care Homes). The free-will offering collected is forwarded to Graceworks for use in the group homes for adults who are mentally challenged. There are 4 group homes near Messiah—Forest Park, Wyoming, Springdale, and Mount Healthy. Please consider giving generously to this organization.



Tri-County SOUL Ministries is undergoing changes. The existing building will be updated and remodeled inside and out – as we were unable to raise enough money to build a completely new pantry. We hope to re-open the clothing ministry In January. We now have a 2nd rep on the board from Messiah – **Diane Stephens** has agreed to serve with **Bunny Doebling**.

The **Angel Wishes** program continues for our clients who are part of our Caring Center. There are 38 families currently in this program whom we help at Christmas time with practical things that can help their current situation – car repairs, utility payments, computers for work or school, dental work, etc. We ask for you to donate any amount you would like as you prayerfully consider this ministry. We need approximately \$11,000. (G.E. employees- remember your gift can be doubled). There will be a box in the narthex to place your donations made out to Tri-County SOUL Ministries – or you can include with your Messiah donation – earmarked for TCSM Angel Wishes. These families are active Christians who just need a little boost! **The deadline for gifts is Dec. 16.**



Mark your calendars for **Messiah's 2018 Progressive Christmas Party** on **Sunday December 9th**. We will be meeting in three member's homes in Indiana this year. Come and join in the fun and socialize with your fellow Messiah members and friends.

CHRISTMAS Progressive Dinner

Look for more information about time and a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks. There is a possibility that we can rent a Van so more people can go in one vehicle.

When: **Sunday, December 9th**

Where:

John and Laura Priebe
1258 Campground Dr.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Tim and Diane Wolford
1176 Kentucky Lane
West Harrison, IN 47060

Scott and Susan Silver
1790 Einsel Road
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.



Jr. & Sr. High Youth

- ◆ **Nov. 3rd: Chili Cook-off @ 7:00
(NYG Fundraiser—Help set up and clean up)**
- ◆ **Nov. 30th - Dec. 2nd: OH District Sr. High
Gathering in Dublin, OH**

PARENTS—Check your e-mail at the beginning of every month for youth events
and news!





Ken's pictures and comments from the game. "Boy anywhere else I sit at the ballgame will never even come we're sitting to where we were sitting. Right behind the on deck before they batted. To the right from our seat we could look right into the dug-out. Food was excellent. Thank you for the retirement gift."



Lots of fun painting and decorating pumpkins at the Greenhills Harvest Fest.





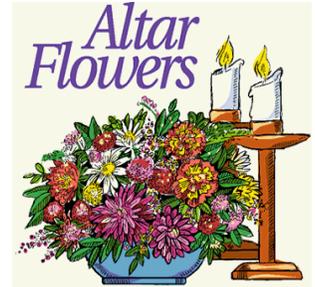
NOVEMBER
2018



17 Pete and Susan Grothe
22 Rick and Sandy Walter
27 Greg and Marilyn McEneny

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

5 Joanne Ash
5 Marsha Wingo
6 Katie Michael
8 Harold Roppel
13 Darrel Doran
15 Karen Berndt
15 Owen Magill
16 Randy Gross
17 Jean Floyd
17 Pete Grothe
20 Laura Priebe
21 John Michael
22 April Gottula
23 Cameron Kennedy
23 Ted McCammon
27 Ruth Schobert
29 Michael Welage



Altar Flowers

The following families have signed up for November:
Rice, Lois Harrison, Staab, Baldwin, and McEneny

Please remit your payment of **\$25** to **"MESSIAH ALTAR SOCIETY"** and place in the Altar Society mailbox in the church office.
Thank You!

The flowers must be paid for before the order is placed

Thank you all for the many kind words, emails and cards of encouragement, celebration and sympathy at Dad's passing over to life eternal and joining the faithful cheering for us. Along with you, I look forward to seeing him in heaven. **Tina Burge**

Messenger Deadline for the December issue is

November 12.

Send articles to messenger@MessiahGRH.org

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3 7:30am Elders 8:30am Leadership board meeting 5:30pm Traditional Communion Worship Service 6:30pm Chili Cook-Off 
4 Daylight Savings Ends 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Worship Service	5 7:00pm Yoga class	6 7:30pm Band and Vocals	7 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	8	9	10 9:00am Hands Against Hunger Packing Event 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service 
11 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 2:30pm Book Club 	12 7:00pm Yoga class	13 7:30pm Band and Vocals	14 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 4:45pm Prince of Peace <i>Thanksgiving Dinners</i> 	15	16	17 9:00am Church Fall Work Day 5:30pm Traditional Communion Worship Service
18 Voters' Meeting 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Communion Worship Service 11:15 Voters' Meeting Lunch 11:45 Voters' Meeting	19 7:00pm Yoga class	20 7:30pm Band and Vocals	21 7:00pm 	22 	23	24 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service
25 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 	26 7:00pm Yoga class	27 7:30pm Band and Vocals	28 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	29	30	

Good for a smile or slight chuckle

“Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie.”