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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Lent begins in just a few weeks. I find it interesting that this year Lent begins on Valentine's Day and Easter is the day before April Fool's Day. I think there is sermon material in those connections. Even though Lent is a penitential season, the season of Lent is God's Valentine gift to us because the season is a forty-day journey that ultimately points us to the love of Jesus shown to us through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And, of course, with Easter being the day before April Fool's Day – the last laugh is on the devil who was defeated at the cross and through the resurrection death was also defeated.

The Lenten series that we will be using at our midweek Lenten services is entitled **"The Seven Signs of Jesus's Divinity."** Throughout Lent we will be looking at the various signs of Jesus – Jesus turning water into wine; the healing of the Nobleman's Son; the healing of the man at the pool; the feeding of the 5000; Jesus' walking on the water; the healing of the man born blind; and the raising of Lazarus.

At our midweek Lenten services we will be hearing from different Pastors in the Cincinnati area. Our services will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. with a meal starting at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

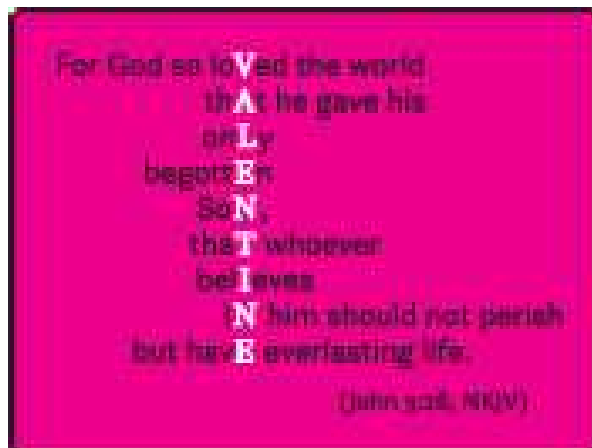
During Lent we will have opportunity to prepare ourselves through the Word of God to receive the Lord Jesus that will be communicated through Holy Week and then ultimately on Easter Sunday. ***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life."***

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor Allen Stuckwisch



Stephen Ministry commissioning took place on January 27 and 28th at all the services. The Stephen Ministry leaders who are now trained are Pastor Stuckwisch, Laura Priebe, Judy Stroeh, April Gottula, Holly Yeates, Cathy Carson, Chris Bow, John and Lynn Hile, Danny and Debbie Vanderpool



Upcoming Events

Feb 6 Clifton Clef Music Club
 Feb 15 Ash Wednesday
 Lenten Dinner (Youth sponsor) and Service
 Feb 21 Lenten Dinner (Worachek Bible Class sponsor) and Service
 Feb 28 Lenten Dinner (Leadership sponsor) and Service
 March 6 -Lenten Dinner (Stephen Ministry Group sponsor) and Service
 March 13 -- Dinner Open for group to sponsor and Service
 March 20 -- Dinner Open for group to sponsor and Service
 March 24 Palm Sunday
 March 28 Maundy Thursday
 March 29 Good Friday
 March 30 Easter Vigil
 March 31 Easter—
 Feast of the Resurrection
 Easter breakfast between services



From the Elders

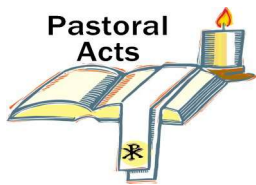
2024 — a new year that the Lord has given us. How will we live our lives in this gift from God? It is very easy to become discouraged when we listen to the news and see the anger and hatred around us. We sometimes may even fall into the trap of the devil and participate in this anger.

But Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ... ***“Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*** Paul also displays this joy in the Book of Philippians where, in prison, he shows us an attitude of rejoicing in every circumstance, and he finds joy in the trials he experiences.

A joyful heart is a result of knowing that Christ's love is so great he died and rose for all of us. Because of what He did for each of us we know the real joy of being right with God. Psalm 16:11 says ***“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”***

Therefore, may we all live in the joy of Christ throughout the coming year and display that joy to everyone we meet no matter the circumstance.

The Elders



We welcomed **Leah Swisher** as a new member to the Messiah congregational family on Saturday January 13



Welcome Leah Swisher and her family (Brant, Carlyn, and Desmond to Messiah)



Clifton Clef Music

Music at Messiah:

The Clifton-Clef Music Club will meet at Messiah on

Tuesday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Come hear a concert by our own great musicians -

Cathy Carson & Sharon Schmetzer.

Plan now to attend!



From the Congregation President

This will be a little bit shorter than usual. We've hit the time of year where we're all taking a breath and collecting ourselves from the hustle and bustle of the holidays. There aren't a lot of upcoming events or noteworthy items requiring updates.

The Volunteer Appreciation Meal was held on January 14th. Thank you to all who attended and gave the leadership board an opportunity to serve you. All of our volunteers are truly appreciated, all throughout the year. We truly cannot thank you enough for everything that you do.

Be on the lookout for future fellowship opportunities. Game night, trivia night, and the chili cook off, among other events, will be happening sooner rather than later. We look forward to seeing you there.

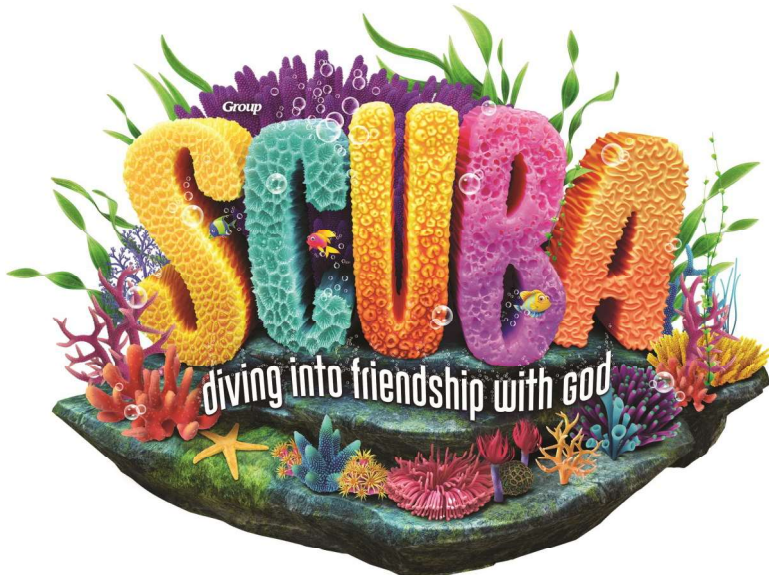
Blessings,
Shawn Horner

Lenten Dinners (6:00pm) and Service (7:00pm)

Feb 14 is Ash Wed -- Youth group sponsor the dinner
Feb 21-- Jim Worachek's Bible Class sponsor the dinner
Feb 28 -- Shawn Horner and Leadership sponsor the dinner
March 6 -- The Stephen Ministry Group will do dinner
March 13 -- Open for group to sponsor the dinner
March 20 --Open for group to sponsor the dinner

Vacation Bible School

JOIN THE FUN



Save the Date!
June 24-28, 9-Noon

Registration for students opens soon —

Contact **Cathy Carson**
cathycarson82@gmail.com
513-824-1241 if you can help
with VBS



OWLS: We will meet on February 20 at 12:30 for dessert (provided) and coffee to hear a presentation about **The Wonderful World of Advertising**. What products do you remember from your youth, what jingles can you still sing? What products never made it besides an Edsel? Come for a fun presentation and bring a friend.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club: We will meet at the home of Laura Priebe, 1258 Campground Rd, Lawrenceburg on Sunday, February 25 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss “All the Light we Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr. Although this was a bookclub selection in September 2016 we are selecting it again because of the renewed interest in the book due to the Netflix mini-series of the same name. The story involves a blind French girl who befriends a German radio operator. Don’t have time to read the book- watch the movie and come to the discussion! Interesting fact – both the young girl and the older girl in the movie are actually blind!

TRI-COUNTY SOUL MINISTRIES: Thanks to all who donated to the Angel Wishes Campaign. We were able to complete all of the Caring Center Clients needs thanks to your generosity and that of our partner churches. We are always in need of hearty soups, shampoo, lotion, bodywash toothbrushes and toothpaste.



2024 Outreach Calendar

Jan 31	Prince of Peace Dinner
Mar 13	Prince of Peace Dinner
Mar 19	Primary Election - Snacks & Poll Worker Lunch
May	Greenhills Coop Preschool Teacher Appreciation Lunch
Jun 12	Prince of Peace Dinner
Jun 28	VBS Closing Cookout
July 17	Prince of Peace Cookout Dinner
Aug 6	Special Election - Snacks & Poll Worker Lunch
Sept	Greenhills Coop Preschool Meet the Teacher Night
Sept 11	Prince of Peace Dinner
Oct	Greenhills HarvestFest
Oct 19?	Messiah Oktoberfest Community Meal
Oct 23	Prince of Peace Oktoberfest Style Dinner
Nov 5	General Election - Snacks & Poll Worker Lunch
Nov 20	Prince of Peace Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec	Greenhills Light-up the Commons
Dec 11	Prince of Peace Dinner



January music included solos and a wind septet! Thank you to everyone who played or sang.

Ash Wednesday is February 14. We will have music at all of our Wednesday services during Lent, as well as our Saturday services and Sundays at 8:30. If you would like to play or sing, either in an ensemble or as a soloist, please contact Cathy. If you have any interest in playing handbells, even if you are a beginner, please let me know. I hope to include some handbell music during Lent.

cathycarson82@gmail.com 513-824-1241

Messiah's Stephen Ministry Class of 2024

Below our newly trained Stephen Ministers answers these two questions:

Why did you become involved in Messiah's Stephen Ministry?

What has been the most impactful part of the training?



Chris Bow

I first learned about Stephen Ministry from a Stephen Ministry leader. Knowing this person has helped me see what a blessing it is to have someone be there for you. I agreed to the training, and it has had a huge impact on my life.

I have learned how truly valuable it is to have someone in your life that is there to listen to you, pray with and for you, and just to support you. What a blessing! I am learning how meaningful the words we say (and don't say) can be. This training has helped me grow in faith, appreciate kindness, and given me the opportunity to get to know some really special people in this congregation. I am so glad they are in my life!

Cathy Carson

I became involved in Stephen Ministry because I heard so many good things about it from Pastor and Judy Stroeh. I was glad to see Messiah start a Stephen Ministry, because there is such a need for what we do.

The training has been so well-organized, and has given us a solid and consistent way to help people. I've especially liked becoming closer to the other people in training, and I've seen a change in the way I see people in my life, especially when they are going through a tough time. I have learned so many skills to help me handle these situations.



John Hiler

I want to be one of those people who is there for others when they are in need. One of the most impactful parts of the Stephen Ministry Training is the emphasis on confidentiality.

Lynn Hiler

I am called to help others and be there for them. Stephen Ministry helps me to do that in a very confidential way.



Danny Vanderpool

I became involved in Messiah's Stephen Ministry because I have consistently believed in the importance of serving Christ in the community. I desire to be part of something larger than myself and to make a positive impact on the community. This has been a driving force for me.

Stephen Ministry training has seamlessly integrated into my daily life. The Assertiveness Training, in particular, has proven immensely beneficial, among other things, equipping me to handle accepting compliments graciously with newfound ease.



Debbie Vanderpool

I'm at the time in my life when I want to give back, by helping someone in need by listening and letting them know they are not alone. I want to help others meet their challenges and deepen their faith.

The training has shown me how many tools we really have to help our care receivers, but to know that we are just the caregivers, and God is the Cure Giver.



Holly Yeatts

I became involved in Messiah's Stephen Ministry after learning about the contribution we can make for individuals in need. I think it will be a privilege to assist others move through a difficult time by providing support.

The training has definitely brought me closer to God, and I've enjoyed the blessing of fellowship with others in the group. I've learned more about human behavior under stress, and what a tremendous responsibility and privilege it will be to serve God in this way, as God directs us.



These 7 individuals have joined our 3 leaders and Pastor to form an amazing team! We've connected to God and one another throughout these past several months, and now we're ready to put all we have learned into practice!

What is your part, Messiah members? Be a lookout!





Messiah LWML Lutheran Women in Mission is happy to report that the LWML Ohio District has received and paid in full \$116,400.00 for grants during 2022-2023.

Good Shepherd of the Deaf, Toledo, Ohio, requested and received a grant of \$1,400 on August 7, 2022, to purchase a monitor for their sanctuary. This church has a strong desire to preach God's love to the deaf, the hard-of-hearing, and the hearing alike. One major way of communicating in the deaf community is through pictures that serve as symbols. Pastor Shirrel Petzoldt detailed Joe and his son Chris worked many Sundays to make this possible. This monitor helps the choir see the music, but also helps Pastor Shirrel understand the sermon and symbols to spread God's Word.



29th Biennial LWML Ohio District Convention

When: June 21-22, 2024

Where: The Holiday Inn Canton

4520 Everhard Road Northwest, Canton, OH

Join your sisters in Christ for this exciting and inspiring event! **Theme Verse:** *The LORD is my strength and my shield (Psalm 28:7a); in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*



From Family Ministry

We'd like to keep you updated on what is happening in Sunday School and give you ideas for your time at home with your children. Look for a weekly email, usually shorter than this! We welcome your response and ideas.

Growing Our Faith

We are exploring tools that help our faith grow.

In class this past Sunday:

We colored as we thought about specific people and then prayed for them.

At home:

What reminds you to pray for someone and helps you stay focused on them?

Journey through the Gospels

with Annie'sBFF Podcast

We'll be using these in class and encourage you to listen at home.

January 8-<https://pod.link/1585186846/episode/4d09967ca800874198a6f5e37faa07c3>

January 15-

<https://pod.link/1585186846/episode/2cbeb3a64acb008d50b0b945e13fc055>

Other resources:

We continue to work on memorizing the books of the Bible. This song is one the children have enjoyed! <https://youtu.be/nLLySvD76dA?feature=shared> Really a fun song.

We really love spending time with your children. As we teach them, our own faith grows!



Children's Christmas Service December 16 and Volunteer Luncheon January 14





February

2024

1 Emilie Carson
3 Kathy Johnson
6 Michael Cochran
7 Logan Stroeh
9 Art Friedrich
15 Reagan Harrison
15 Jessica Kessler
17 Timothy Inman
17 Ken McGuire
18 Sue Worachek
19 Katie Farler
19 Randy Green
21 Jerry Rice
22 Karen Schuerman
23 Kevin Budke
23 Pat Magill
23 Eva Reupert
24 Dick Walter
28 Judy Stroeh

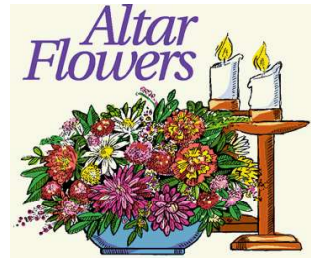


17 Ken & Sharon Schuesler
19 Frank & Jean Floyd
28 Brian & Jennifer Pilsner

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.
—Author unknown

**Messenger Deadline for the March
issue is
February 15.
Send articles to clherron1@gmail.com**



Altar Flowers

The following families have signed
up for February
Schultz, Hiler, Dumke

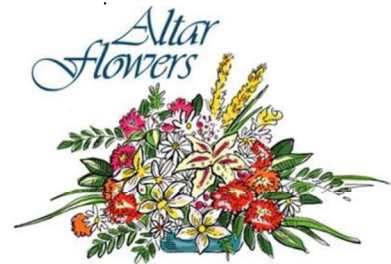
Please remit your payment of \$40
to

**"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**



The 2024
sign-up
sheets are
now availa-
ble for you
to put your
name down
for altar

flowers during the year. **The
cost is now \$40 per ar-
rangement** which needs to
be paid before the flowers
are ordered.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00am Elders 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service
4 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	5	6 1:00pm Clifton Clef Music Club 7:30pm Band and Vocals	7 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study	8	9	10 9:00am Leadership Board 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service
11 <i>Transfiguration</i> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	12	13 7:30pm Band and Vocals	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i> 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 6:00pm Lenten dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service 	15	16	17 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service
18 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	19 <i>Presidents Day</i>	20 12:30pm OWLS 7:30pm Band and Vocals	21 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 6:00pm Lenten dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service 	22	23	24 5:30pm Traditional Communion Service
25 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service 2:30pm Book Club	26	27 7:30pm Band and Vocals	28 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 6:00pm Lenten dinner 7:00pm Lenten Service 	29		