

THE HERALD

MESSIAH
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

"We are a reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes all people"

4301 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester NY, 14616 Phone 585-865-1866 website: <http://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net>

PRAYER VERSE

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the
faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the
Lord! Psalm 117: 1-2*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Discipleship Workshop

Join us April 5 for our next "Practical Tools for Discipleship" Workshop. This one will be Part 2 of Communication Skills. It will be held from 9:00 am -11:00 am in the fellowship hall with a light breakfast provided. Bring a friend!

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Weekly Lenten Reflections

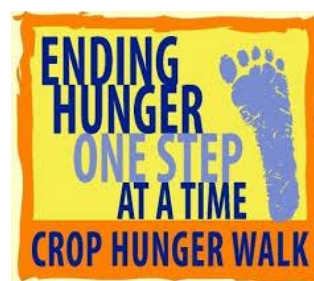
Our weekly Lenten Reflections continue with a simple supper at 6 pm, immediately followed by a prayerful and reflective Lenten experience.

- 4/4/25: Greece United Methodist - led by Pastor Aileen Robbins (1924 Maiden Ln # 1, Rochester, NY 14626)
- 4/11/25: Parma UCC- led by Pastor Gary Kubitz (1211 Manitou Rd, Hilton 14468)
Please note this is a change from March Herald



Holy Week Schedule

- **Maundy Thursday:** Celebrated at 7 pm, April 17, 2025, at Greece United Methodist (1924 Maiden Ln # 1, Rochester, NY 14626)
Please note this is a change from March Herald
- **Good Friday:** Celebrated at 7 pm, April 18, 2025, at Messiah Lutheran Church (4301 Mt Read Blvd, Rochester, NY 14616)
- **Easter Sunday:** Celebrated at 10 am, April 20, 2025, at Messiah Lutheran Church. (4301 Mt Read Blvd, Rochester, NY 14616)



CROP WALK

By John Corman

Greece CROP Hunger Walk, May 2025

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. **It's a movement that's 55 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S.**



The Greece CROP Hunger Walk is May 4th, 2025. The Walk is at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, with registration starting at 1pm and the group start is at 1:30 pm. Registration and donations may be done online at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/rochesterny>

Personal checks should be made payable to: CWS/CROP and then placed in offering plate.

For more information, contact John Corman, email: jcorman@rochester.rr.com

The CROP Hunger Walks were created to support the global mission of [Church World Service](#). CWS responds to deadly emergencies in dozens of countries around the globe. CWS works with families all over the world to put food on the table, connect to clean water, and build the businesses they need to thrive, through sustainable solutions. CWS works alongside partners ranging from small community organizations to the United Nations, to welcome, protect, and support people on the move worldwide.

This year, our CROP Hunger Walk and your support, is **extremely important for vulnerable people around the world.**

Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe, through just and sustainable responses.

**WALK. GIVE.
CHANGE THE WORLD.**



Stewardship Fellowship Event

By Jim Hartmann

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank you all for your continued support of Messiah and our Ministries and sharing your Treasures of all kinds. We had a fun time at the "Treasure Hunt" Potluck back in February. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend! Let's continue the Fun and Fellowship on Sunday, May 4th after worship with our **Ministry Treasures Potluck.**

After sharing a yummy **Potluck Luncheon**, we will be having some fellowship time highlighting our Ministries at Messiah. Come learn about what ministries we have at Messiah. Come share what ministry is a treasure to you and why. Or just come and be together with your Treasured Church Family, all are welcome.

Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex and bring something for lunch you would like to share. Any questions, contact Jim Hartmann @ 585-851-1006. Thank you for being good stewards of God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It's the time of year when I start scouring gardening websites for advice. I find a lot of competing advice. Direct sowing vs. transplanting. Hot composting vs. cold. I'm intrigued by the two letters in the center. The two letters, "vs."



The word, “versus,” is a mighty word. It implies there is a right and a wrong. It implies that something will win and something (or someone) will lose. “Versus” sets up opposition and conflict.

Our themes for the Sundays in Lent – intention/action, stranger/neighbor, faith/works, rest/growth, lost/found, righteousness/mercy, shouting/silence, power/humility, acceptance/resistance and grief/hope – have often been set up as opposing forces. We have been led falsely to assume we must choose one or the other.

As we move through Lent, I invite you to join me in reflection on how these forces can work together. How times of rest can lead to times of growth; how a quest for righteousness can make us more merciful as a community and individuals; how intentional learning and research can lead us into more fruitful action.

Our world has become more fractured and fragmented. Jesus invites us to live intentionally in the midst of the “mess.” Jesus invites us to be a people of peace, healing, listening and advocating right smack in the middle of all that is broken. Jesus invites us into a balance of love and justice, peace and righteousness.

There is no “versus” in Christ’s church. There is only one community drawn together by the grace of God and the sacrificial love of Christ into resurrection life! Thanks be to God!

Peace
Pastor Aileen



COUNCIL NEWS

By Jeff Gerstenberger

At our meeting on March 6th, Council reviewed our financials and received an update from the Outreach Team. (Each month, one ministry team provides an in-depth report.) We discussed the end (probably until July) of funding for “pooled” grants from Foodlink that allow us to purchase food at a deep discount. Along with the Food Pantry Team, Council will monitor our Designated Fund balance (currently a little over \$20k), and determine if any action is needed before the new fiscal year for grants begins.

Lisa Klima has volunteered to serve on Council, leading the Adult Faith Formation Team. We elected Lisa to the Council until the next Annual Meeting, at which point the congregation will be asked to elect her to the remainder of her standard 3-year term. Welcome Lisa!

Other topics of conversation included: creating a better calendar of upcoming events for the congregation, looking for a secure way to display one or more Pride flags so they are visible from the street, and a brief review of our current Mission and Vision Statements. Our conclusion was the Mission Statement is good, and the Vision Statement would benefit from some updated language, perhaps borrowing from our Statement of Welcome.

WORSHIP



Worship

Worship Vision:

We are a faithful and joyful community gathered to worship, grounded in prayer. As the Body of Christ, we proclaim God’s love for the world, share our faith stories, join our voices in song, and create space for all God’s children to fully offer their praise to God.

EDUCATION

Bereavement Ministry



By Ellen Meyer

Hope for the Journey

We hold a grief support group weekly for those who have experienced grief and are looking for a place to share their feelings. It is amazing that when we share those feelings out loud, listen to others who also are working on their grief, and just talk things over, it gets better. Contact Ellen Meyer, Pastor Aileen or Pastor Hans, or Cathy in the office for questions or meeting details.

Evy shares this lovely poem about what goes on in a support group with us:

Support Group

By Evelyn Ann Heller

Support Group.

Maple and Eggshell walls.

Cocooning broken people,

Looking for healing from grief,

From loss.

For reasons to go on,

To keep living.

Silence binding them together,

Then words throw a life line

As they flow between them

Understanding one another.

Sharing the anger, the pain, and the grief.

The things that torment them.

Less lost and alone as another's words

Bring a glimmer of hope.

A shared enemy

Slowly finding hope

Facing the world again.



Lunch Bunch

By Janet-Graves-Wright

The Lunch Bunch (plant-based) is a Messiah Ripples of Wellness program focused on providing information on the health benefits of a plant-based diet, coupled with an opportunity to sample delicious plant-based foods. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our April meeting is April 1. Please bring a plant-based dish to share and serving utensil, along with your own table service and beverage. We recognize that some people may have food sensitivities and ask that each participant provide a list of all the ingredients in their food offering. Whatever your path to healthy nutrition may be, you are welcome to join us for fellowship and discussion. Flyers with food preparation guidelines are available in the narthex. You do not have to follow a plant-based diet or be a vegan to join our group. You just have to eat like one when you are with us! For those who are unable to join us in person, the meeting will be simultaneously hosted on Zoom. To join the video conference use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86739017002?pwd=VTJEZnRYbmQzTk1RNVRUZjBGa1U2Zz09>

To join by telephone, call (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 867 3901 7002 Passcode: 978697

"We hope that many of you will be able to join us in person on the first Tuesday of the month ... For those who are snowbirds, we look forward to seeing you again after warmer weather returns."

Questions? Contact Janet Graves-Wright at JanetG.ROWellness@gmail.com

Joy Beyond the Bend



Joy Beyond the Bend is a group for anyone who has experienced a loss of any kind including the loss of a relationship or the loss of a beloved pet. We will meet in the church parking lot on April 15 to carpool for lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse. We will leave at 11:15 am. When we return to the church, our meeting begins with a check-in, followed by a meditation topic, and then we play Crazy Rummy (a simple card game with instructions and a card shuffler available) until 4:00 pm. Please call Joyce (225-3868) or email (jckokopuff@gmailcom) with questions and to RSVP for lunch by the deadline, Saturday, April 12. The quick response for reservations is appreciated. Our objective is to fill a need for Christian fellowship and foster friendships. All are welcome.



Golf League

By Mike Scheg

Come join a fun and relaxed golfing group. We have members from our church and many friends involved. It is a group of beginners and avid players that enjoy a social setting with few rules. We meet Thursday mornings around 10:00 am. We play a round of 9 holes each week. It is 16 weeks for the league, but we play until the golf season ends if you

want. Fees are \$225 greens fee and \$6 weekly if you want to ride in a cart. League starts the first full week in May. Come by yourself or bring a friend. We have singles and couples in our group. I do a rotating roster each week. So, you get a chance to play with everyone by the end of the season. If interested: e-mail me at mescheg@yahoo.com



Chair Yoga and Meditation

Ripples of Wellness Chair Yoga and Meditation meets every Wednesday from 10 to 11 am. It's fun, relaxing and good for the body and mind with a little socialization included. We start with a brief chat period, followed by a prayer, the yoga chair exercises and end with a ten minute meditation session. No expensive exercise equipment is required, and anything needed can be implemented by items you have around the house. Since meditation is often mentioned in the daily media, perhaps you are curious. This group is a good way to experience the relaxing effects of taking 20 minutes a day to relax your body and quiet your mind. All are welcome! The zoom link is published in the Sunday announcements. This has been and will continue to be a fun group! For more information contact Susan Roth (953-8095) or Joyce Callen (225-3868).



OUTREACH

Stephen Ministry



Help. Hope. Healing. Stephen Ministry.

Over the years, well over one-and-a-half million people have benefited from the one-to-one, Christ-centered care of

a Stephen Minister. This care is entirely confidential – no one knows the identity of a care receiver except for their Stephen Minister and the pastor or Stephen Leader who paired them together. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who receive special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community experiencing challenges in life – grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties. Whenever you are going through a difficult time, a Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact Pastor Aileen or Pastor Hans.

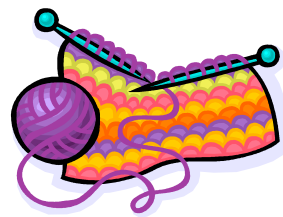


Messiah's Food Pantry

Monetary Donations to our Food Pantry may be made online using Paypal from Messiah's Food Pantry page

<http://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net/content/food-pantry> or using this QR code.

Note that PayPal can be used for any credit/debit card transactions – the donor does not need to have a PayPal account.



Creative Hands

By Sharon Stio

We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 12:30 across from the library. Come and join us as we knit and crochet for others.

PROPERTY

Property News

By Paul Williams

It is a nice sunny day as I write this article. Tomorrow the temperature is forecasted to almost 60° and that will be fun and enjoyable. Now that the snow is melting away, we can see some of the litter that has accumulated on Messiah's lawns over the winter. The 6-month inspection of our elevator is due this month and our inspector is coming March 11. While he is onsite doing his job, maybe I'll wander around the lawn and pick up some trash. Actually, from April to November, the guys and I cruise the lawn weekly, picking up litter. If you'd like to help the property guys by performing this low stress and easy job, let me know.

It is the first Monday of Daylight-Saving time and the guys spent some time resetting all the time pieces in Messiah this morning. How many clocks could there be you're saying? Well, there are only 5 or 6 wall clocks. But there are 8 thermostats for our hot water heating system and their time must be updated. Next, there are 15 thermostats for the VRF system, and each needs their time updated. This is not hard work, but you know how it is – you must remember how it works. Now, where is that menu? Do I use the up arrow, or down arrow to get there? What's this arrow do?

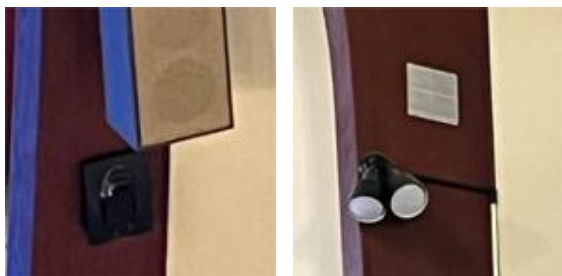
Oops, I made a mistake, how did I get into this menu and how do I exit out of it??

Additionally, our 5:00 pm service was just discontinued. So, in addition to resetting the thermostats' time, we adjusted the Sunday heating schedule. It is no longer necessary to keep the temperature in Messiah up through Sunday evening. We also checked the operation of the carbon monoxide detectors - we have 3. One by the kitchen, one in the small boiler room and the last by the bottle recycling containers.

The fire department suggests checking your smoke detectors when you adjust your clocks. Every wonder about the Sanctuary and where its detectors are? Well, the next time you are in the Sanctuary and gaze up at the lighted cross, look slightly to the left and then the right. You will find two square modules mounted above the long speakers. Each one shoots out a laser beam the length of the church towards two mirrors up in the choir loft. The beams bounce off the mirrors, and back to those modules where a receiver is watching for it. If there was ever to be smoke in the Sanctuary, it would interfere with those beams, break them up. The system would trigger the alarm panel, causing the audible and visual fire alarms to activate and the panel would also call the alarm monitoring company.

OK, that's all for this month. Once again, thank you to all who help maintain our facilities. As always, if you see something broken, or out of whack, or dirty, or have a suggestion, let me know. Paul 585-732-5127 paulmwilliams01@hotmail.com

Here are photos of the laser transmitter/receiver module and the mirror.



FINANCE

The Finance Forum

By Andy Mitchell

February 2025 Operating Budget Summary

	Feb	YTD
Operating & Benevolence Income	\$16,819.99	\$67,334.49
Transfers From savings	\$1,139.00	\$2,278.00
Income & Transfers From Savings	\$17,958.99	\$69,612.49
Actual Expense	\$24,967.73	\$65,449.50
Net cash flow	-\$7,008.74	\$4,162.99
Budgeted Income & Expense	\$30,708.33	\$61,416.66

(Source: Power Church accessed 3/6/2025)

Giving Focus

Do you write a check when donating to the church? Would you like a way to simplify your giving?

Bill Pay is a free service from your bank or credit union. You start by entering the name, address, and phone number of the organization or individual you want to pay. For example:

*Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
4301 Mt. Read Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14616
585-865-1866*

Then you schedule a one-time or repeating payment.

Video HOW TO USE BILL PAY
tinyurl.com/ytwt5xc5

If you'd like help setting up Bill Pay with your bank or credit union or have additional questions, please contact Andy Mitchell.

The lover of money will not be satisfied with money, nor the lover of wealth with gain. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NRSV updated edition)

If you have any articles or information to submit to *The Herald*, you may email to:

Messiahoffice1@gmail.com

Or place it in *The Herald* mailbox #21

Deadline is the 12th of the month



Council Member

Position

Email Address

Jeff Gerstenberger

President

jgerstenberger@yahoo.com

Sheri Treadwell

At Large

sheri.treadwell@gmail.com

Mark Sutliff

Outreach

marksutliff@gmail.com

Paul Williams

Property

paulmwilliams01@hotmail.com

Breanna Dauphinee

Worship

breanna.dauphinee@gmail.com

Lisa Klima

Adult Faith Formation

theklimas@gmail.com

Youth and Family

Amy Trichanh

amyelise16@gmail.com

Andy Mitchell

Finance Director

andrew.david.mitchell@gmail.com

Jim Hartmann

Stewardship

jim_hartmann@yahoo.com

Laurie Simonson

Communication

laurie.a.simonson@gmail.com





Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
4301 Mount Read Boulevard
Rochester, New York 14616

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, New York
PERMIT NO. 1818

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us at: <http://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net>

