

THE HERALD

MESSIAH
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN

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

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

PRAYER VERSE

July

Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. *Mark 10:15*

August

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings, I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. *Psalms 63:6-7*

UPCOMING EVENTS



Messiah Pride will be joining the Rochester Community on Saturday 7/19 for the Pride Parade. We'd love to have as many people join us in the parade as possible. There is some space in vehicles for people who wish to attend but are unable to walk the full parade

route. Please sign up on the communications board in the narthex or check in with Bree if you plan to attend. As we get closer to the parade date, we will be in touch about arrival time, and carpool options! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Peace, Bree, Karen, and Sheri



August 4-8

This year we will do a reprisal of the popular "Parable Productions" for **children ages 5-12**. Camp will be held **August 4 - 8, 9 am - noon** with a performance on August 8 at 6 pm. This **free** fun filled week includes music, drama, art, recreation, and snacks. Registration forms are available on our website, on the welcome table in the narthex or by calling the church office. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. We will be collaborating with our siblings from Greece Baptist and Greece United Methodist Churches. Help is needed with Music, Art, Drama, Recreation, Shepherding children, Registration, and Snacks. Please sign up on the communications board, indicating the area you would like to work in. Any questions, contact the church office.

New Messiah Ministry Project

A new Ministry has been given an Endowment Fund Ministry Project Grant, addressing the needs of Nursing Home residents experiencing isolation and loneliness. Led by Carol Dunn, this project aims to let people know they are not forgotten, by giving them "You are Remembered" bags which will include comfort items as well as Christmas cards signed by Messiah members. Collection of items for the bags will begin in July. Watch the bulletin an-

During the months of July and August, we are going to celebrate **“Our Treasured Pets and Stuffed Animals.”** We all love our pets and stuffed animals; they are a big part of our families and lives, let’s celebrate them. So, everyone who would like to can bring in a picture of their pet/pets or bring in a stuffed animal and display them in the narthex. We will have tables and easel boards available for display. Please make a name tag for your pet’s picture or stuffed animal so we all know their name. Let’s have fun with it and celebrate our Treasured Pets & Stuffed Animals. As always, thank you for being good stewards of God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to summer! This year promises to be a busy one. The Stewardship Team has already hosted “Yard-Sale-a-Palooza,” raising \$900 for our food pantry. Thank you to all of you



who shared your treasures, cooked hot-dogs, provided donuts, or shared a bit about us with our guests. It was a magnificent event! As the summer progresses and folks take vacations you might want to think about

donating an hour or two of your time to fill in at the food pantry, the second and fourth Tuesdays and Thursdays of each month. See Reggie Renz or Larry Dennis for more information.

You may have noticed the Progressive Pride Flag hanging from the building. Many thanks to the property team for placing it up high so that our community knows we take seriously our Reconciling in Christ status and our commitment to standing with our BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ. Our Pride Team has registered again for the Rochester Pride

Parade and is in the planning stages of coordinating a float this year. The parade is July 19. If you are interested in participating, please see Karen or Sheri Treadwell-Collins or Breanna Dauphinee for more information and keep watching your bulletins for details.

Finally, August 4-8 we will again be hosting energetic neighborhood children for another rousing year of MAD Camp!! Woohoo! Many hands are needed for this effort and this year we have invited our ecumenical partners to share the week with us as both leaders and students. Please see Carol Dunn if you would like to take part in teaching children the joy of the Gospel parables.

I look forward to seeing you in worship and at this wonderful events!

Pastor Aileen

COUNCIL NEWS

By Jeff Gerstenberger

At our meeting on June 5th, Council reviewed our financials, which continue to do well. In May, the Food Pantry designated funds balance dropped by \$1,662 to \$19,016.

We heard from our representatives to Synod Assembly which was held on Zoom this year (as a cost savings measure). The experience lacked the opportunity to interact with others which made it tough to stay fully engaged. Fortunately, the next couple of Synod Assemblies will return to the in-person format of the past.

A major topic of conversation was the approval of updates to Messiah’s Policy Document. Updates included listing our recognized holidays (Juneteenth was added), documenting our bereavement policy, guidelines for receiving memorial/tribute gifts, and tracking the receipt and spending of grant money. Pastor Aileen noted how few congregations in the

Synod have a document like this and how helpful it is.

We also reviewed changes proposed by the Mutual Ministry Team to the job descriptions for our staff. These were last updated in 2019, and many of the updates simply reflect how we have changed the way we do things over time and since the pandemic. Some additions were also made to clarify or improve documentation of employee benefits. The proposed updates were approved by Council.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to bring those to any member of Council for our attention.

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



Lunch Bunch

By Janet-Graves-Wright

The Lunch Bunch (plant-based) is a Messiah 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 July meeting is July 1. Our August meeting is August 5. Watch the bulletin announcements as the time may change slightly in August due to MAD Camp that week. 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. 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 July 15 to carpool for lunch at the Braddock Bay Tavern.** We will leave at

11:00 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, July



12. The quick response for reservations is appreciated. Watch the Sunday announcements for information on our August meeting. Our objective is to fill a need for Christian fellowship and foster friendships. All are welcome.

Chair Yoga and Meditation

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).



Stephen Ministry



Help. Hope. Healing.
Stephen Ministry -
Receptivity to Receiving Care

Many people are more open to giving care than to receiving it. When we are giving care, we feel stable and secure. When receiving care, we can feel like we're acknowledging weakness, insecurity, or vulnerability.

As a result, there are countless people today who, though they really could benefit from a fellow Christian who would listen and care for them, instead tough it out on their own. They remain the "strong silent type", or wear a smile across a face that is holding back tears.

But God did not create us to be independent - we were created to be interdependent. The New Testament includes more than 50 verses that contain the words "one another" - "love one another," "encourage one another," "build up one another," and "pray for one another." That means it's reciprocal; in addition to loving, encouraging, building up, and praying for others, we are to allow other people to do the same for us!

God does not intend for us to suffer alone. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.



That's why we have Stephen Ministers. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care in their lives. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to support in a loving, caring, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

But hurting people may need help overcoming a barrier to accepting care. So if you find someone who is hurting and could benefit from having a Stephen Minister to walk with them, encourage them to give it a try, and seek their permission to pass their name along to Pastor Aileen. Or, if you find yourself facing a season of difficulties, be open to receiving God's love and grace through another person. Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity for a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to and provide sorely needed care and encouragement. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact Pastor Aileen.



Messiah's Food Pantry

Messiah's Food Pantry has been greatly affected by cuts to Federal Food Assistance Programs, making the need for donations from our congregation even greater. Our current needs are: canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans, carrots), canned fruit (mixed fruit, peaches, pears) dry pasta, and pasta sauce (no glass jars). For our kids packs: individual juice boxes/pouches. Place items in the bin in the narthex under the table between the stairs from the main entrance into the narthex. Gifts cards are always welcome (Aldi's are especially help-

ful). Place in the offering plate or mail. **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

Creative Hands is taking a break for the summer, and will resume in September.



Meow Ministry

By Jennie Bowker

Meow Ministry works to reduce the suffering and population of the hundreds of abandoned or feral cats in our area.

Volunteers in the city are often finding dire circumstances affecting stray cats' health. Vital cat shelters get thrown out, as well as food and water. Many residents misunderstand the cats' situations, leading to efforts to get rid of them. An example is thinking the cats attract rats who eat the cat food. But these cats need all the food given to them, and each day keeping a close eye on them confirms this.



Our rescuers may use hundreds of pounds of food weekly. They also have to directly intervene with the cats, as most of them face health challenges requiring veterinary treatment and drugs. Plenty of cats need neutering through the TNV(R) program, and many are barely beyond their kittenhood, already pregnant. An overpopulation of unneutered animals is the result of carelessness, ignorance or financial household distress.

But you can help! Cans of wet food and bags of Kit 'n Kaboodle or Purina Cat or Kitten Chow are great choices to add to your shopping list. Also chicken baby food jars. Just place items in the Meow box to the right of the fellowship hall downstairs.

Any amount of food or financial help counts to us. We have been blessed by recent donations of both, which defrays costs of food, shelters, health care and neutering for our rescuers. Thank you so much! Make checks to Messiah with a memo to Meow Ministry. You can drop them in the weekly collection. Your contributions mean that lives are saved and suffering cats become happy cats. Thank you for thinking of us!



The Finance Forum

By Andy Mitchell

May 2025 Operating Budget Summary

	May	YTD
Operating & Benevolence Income	\$43,148.33	\$180,996.58
Transfers From Savings	\$1,139.00	\$5,695.00
Income & Transfers From Savings	\$44,287.33	\$186,691.58
Actual Expense	\$26,303.85	\$152,616.72

Net Cash Flow	\$17,983.48	\$34,074.86
Budgeted Income & Expense	\$30,708.33	\$153,541.66

(Source: PowerChurch accessed 6/3/2025)

Policy Focus

Did you know that Messiah has both an Endowment Fund and a Memorial Fund to help support expenses which are not part of our general operating budget?

From the [Endowment Fund's description and charter document](#): *In 2024 the congregation agreed to use a portion of the income from this fund's investments to support members' passions for ministry, establishing the Ministry Project Grants Program. These grants will provide funds for projects that minister to the members of our congregation, our community and our world. They may be used to finance special projects that fundraise for certain ministries, provide service activities for our community, or educate people about important issues. We welcome any ideas that support Messiah's mission- Called into community, gifted to serve; Glorifying God through love in action. We seek to provide ways for people to grow their faith while serving God's world.*

Excerpts from the [Messiah Policy document \(5.6.7.1\)](#): *Gift and Memorial Acceptance All permanent gifts and memorials to the church shall be approved by the Congregation Council. All such gifts shall be evaluated as to appropriateness, quality, theology (with the advice of a Pastor), and any additional costs which may occur with the acceptance of the gift...If a donor wishes to commission art or other items to be made for the church, detailed plans and a review of the artist or craftsman shall be presented to the Council for review prior to commencing.*

The Endowment Fund is primarily used to fund new and creative ministry ideas which support the mission and vision of the church; while the Memorial Fund is used to purchase

long-lasting items such as the technology used to stream online services, a wheelchair for member and visitor use, and significant decorating upgrades to the Sanctuary.

If you are interested in making a donation to either fund, indicate this on the memo line when you give to the church. If you are interested in applying for grant funding, please reach out to Ellen Meyer to determine if a Ministry Project Grant could be a good fit or Andy Mitchell to discuss other potential sources of funding. All members of Messiah may access Ministry Project Grant applications through Cathy in the church office.

*Honor the Lord with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce
Proverbs 3:9 (NRSV updated edition)*



Messiah Lutheran Church Online:

Keep in Touch!

Messiah's Website:

<http://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net>

Messiah on Facebook: Our page-

<https://www.facebook.com/MessiahRoc>

We also have a group on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MessiahRoc/>



Words can hardly convey the many feelings I have surrounding the beautiful celebration of life we/you hosted for my mother Lynne Hunter. I am certain she is smiling down. Thank you so much for all the Messiah community did. I clearly get why my mother so loved her church. Who wouldn't. It is both esthetically and spiritually beautiful. Every single thing about Saturday May 17th was perfect.

Thank you so much. What wonderful closure for our mother and one of your truly devoted parishioners. Mother so very much loved her church and I completely understand why. I wish Messiah all the very best going forward.

All the Best,
Daniel Harris

I want to thank your church for hosting the Court of Awards ceremony on Monday, April 28th where my grandson, Ryan, received his Eagle Scout award. Everyone from the church was so welcoming. The altar was a perfect setting for the ceremony. The area where the party was held had everything we needed and was so clean. Those young scouts are our future and you should be very proud of providing a great place for them to hold their meeting and ceremonies to grow and learn.

Thank you, Barbara Corbin

The Yard Sale-a-Palooza raised \$900 for our food pantry.

Thank you to all of you who set up, cleaned up, shared treasures, cooked hot-dogs, brought donuts and to the Stewardship Team for organizing the event. It was a wonderful day!

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 prior. NOTE: The next issue is September, so the deadline is August 12.



Summer

Blessings

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
Amy Trichanh	Youth and Family	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





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2025