



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

## PRAYER VERSE

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.  
*Ephesians 2:10*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE!** Discipleship workshop at Messiah Saturday, October 14, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Watch for more details!!

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,  
As we begin another season in the church year (the second and more urgent part of Pentecost), we also begin a season of new beginnings. There are many activities that are getting up and running and I hope you will

be as excited about them as I am. You can read more details in the rest of this issue of the Herald, but to give you a brief run down, you can expect the following to happen in the next several weeks:

- The National Youth Gathering Registration is September 15!! If you have not already received registration forms or

had a conversation with Amy Trichanh, please do so immediately. The Youth Gathering will be in New Orleans from July 16-20, 2024. There is also a Multi-cultural event, as well as an event for differently abled youth, The Table, that both take place July 13-16. We plan on attending all of these. So, please, see Amy for registration information.

- Confirmation Class begins September 17 from 11:30-1:00 in the Conference Room. If you are the parent of a child in grades 6-8, please look for a detailed letter in the mail.
- September 25 RocUbuntu is beginning a 5 week book study on "Houses of Healing" by Robin Casarjian. This is a sequel to our Outrageous Justice Study. Please see the schedule in this newsletter for locations and facilitators.

As always we continue to need help with our food distribution ministry on the second and fourth Tuesdays and Thursdays. School Supplies will continue to be collected through Labor Day for Rise School. Joyful worship is offered at 10:00 am and 5:00 pm every Sunday. I hope to see you for one/all of these events.

Peace  
Pastor Aileen





## FEATURES



### Celebrating Pastor Hans Irmer 50 Years of Ministry

*By Joanne Niemi*

On Sunday, July 30 we celebrated Pastor Hans Irmer's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. What a celebration it was! Pastor

Hans and Linda's children and grandchildren were there to celebrate with us.

The day began with worship. Pastor Hans presided at communion welcoming all to Christ's table. There was a special prayer thanking God for Pastor Hans's dedication and service.

The Fellowship Hall was decorated beautifully. Approximately 100 people joined in a delicious meal with a wide variety of recipes including several vegan and gluten free choices. Pastor Aileen spoke of the gift that Pastor Hans is to her and to everyone he meets. She shared how kind, patient and loving he is, with examples from his interactions with our food ministry clients and his visits to those who are ill. Pastor Hans's daughter, Heddy, spoke, relaying several early childhood memories and Pastor Hans's path to the ministry. Several letters from former parishioners were read. The tributes and letters shared some of the impact that Pastor Hans has had on the many lives he has touched.

Linda Irmer, Pastor Hans's wife, also spoke. Linda shared that she was raised Baptist and became a Lutheran through Pastor Hans's influence and teaching. Linda also shared that she discovered some of her ancestors in Europe were indeed Lutheran.

The congregation presented Pastor Hans with a monetary gift that will be donated to the charity of his choice. Many thanks to Ellen Meyer and her team for organizing this celebration. It was a great day celebrating Pastor Hans's 50 years of ministry. What a gift he is to all of us and everyone he comes in contact with. Thanks be to/for Pastor Hans Irmer! Woo Hoo!

For those of you who didn't see the white board in the Fellowship Hall, here is a description of Pastor Hans, using the letters of his name:

<b>H</b> umerous	<b>I</b> rrisistable
<b>A</b> dorable	<b>R</b> esilient
<b>N</b> urtuting	<b>M</b> odest
<b>S</b> incere	<b>E</b> ncouraging
	<b>R</b> eassuring

### THANK YOU!!!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's been several weeks since we gathered on July 30, and you honored me with an incredible celebration of my 50 years as an ordained pastor. For me it was overwhelming---not only can I not comprehend that it's been 50 years (Yes, half a century!) since I was ordained in my home church in Nutley, New Jersey on my mother's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday (I assure you she didn't choose the date---the President of the New Jersey Synod did---she was just as confounded by the meaning of it all as I was!). But, that aside, you gathered around me in numbers that also overwhelmed me.

That was just the beginning of my being overwhelmed---the Love that you surrounded me with and the words that Pastor Aileen and my family and you all showered me with were more than I could literally comprehend---When it was over, I was so filled with feelings that I could not have clearly stated what was said...I hope you can understand that wash of feelings.

I am also very thankful for the generous financial gifts you have given in my honor. While I am still pondering and praying about how to share them, I am determined that half of them will help fund Messiah's food ministry and the other half will be forwarded to support one of our world-wide ministries helping to care for our hurting Sisters and Brothers around the globe.

"Thank You!" from the bottom of this 77 year old heart for your partnership and your gifts as we are God's church together!

With deep Gratitude---May God continue to Bless and Guide our Ministries,

Pastor Hans



## WORSHIP



Worship

By Shelly Knapp

### 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.*

It was a post card I received in 2005, inviting me and my family to join a study group on Rick Warren's *40 Days of Purpose* that led me and my son Jonmichael to Messiah. The series was rewarding! Fast forward to 2023 and I came across this same author's daily blog inviting us to "worship God by using [our] gifts," and that when we use the gifts God has given us, it's an act of worship. How timely to come across this blog as we are celebrating our unique gifts within Messiah.

*"When you use the gifts God has given you, it's an act of worship."*

*"What makes God smile? . . . . The truth is, God smiles when you use the gifts he's given you."*

*"God doesn't expect you to be talented or gifted at everything. He just wants you to worship him by using what he's given you."*

*"The best feeling comes from using your gifts for God's purpose, knowing you're worshiping God by doing what he made you to do. It is the greatest thrill in the world!"*

The author leaves us with some questions:

- *What do you believe God has created you to do?*
- *How are you using your SHAPE – your Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences – to worship God?*
- *Describe a time in your life when you were using your gifts to serve others. What was that like?*

Your Worship and Music Team would love to hear from you. Why not drop us a line, in care of Shelly Knapp: [mknapp512@gmail.com](mailto:mknapp512@gmail.com) or leave us a note in the Worship Team mailbox. (#5) Blessings!

## EDUCATION

### Adult Faith Formation

By Andy Mitchell

One of the best parts of being a teacher is getting a fresh start every September. Even if there were challenging students and difficult classes last school year, teachers and students get a clean slate on the first day of school.

We don't get natural fresh starts with family, friends, and church. Day in, day out, year in, year out, we fall into patterns and develop expectations.

Jesus offers us a spiritual fresh start each time we pray. If you've fallen into unhealthy patterns and developed unhelpful expectations, pray for a change this September.

Andy



The following recommendations are taken from the [ELCA Recommended Practices for Lifelong Faith Formation](#):

Faith-Filled Service

Young Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in advocacy for justice and societal transformation (e.g., speak out on social media, march for a cause)</li> <li>Care for creation (e.g., recycling, shopping local)</li> <li>Utilize faith embodied in leadership gifts in or outside of church</li> <li>Serve in global mission, in campus ministry, or as a camp counselor</li> </ul>

Middle-Senior Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use talents and gifts to help others (e.g., teach English as a second language)</li> <li>Volunteer in the community (e.g., PTA, scouts, local government)</li> <li>Serve consistently in some role(s) in the congregation, intentionally welcome and train others to participate in the ministry</li> <li>Pass on faith stories, perhaps in one-to-one interactions (e.g., as a parent, grandparent, neighbor, mentor)</li> </ul>

This is the final installment of a four-part series.

**Youth and Family Faith Formation**

*By Amy Trichanh*

**Attention Youth** entering 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2023-24 school year: The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering is taking place July 16-20 in New Orleans! Pre-registration is on September 15, 2023. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Amy Trichanh ([amyelise16@gmail.com](mailto:amyelise16@gmail.com) or 585-729-3380) by September 15.

**Sunday School** will be back in full swing for the upcoming school year! If you would like to teach once or twice a month, please contact Amy Trichanh ([amyelise16@gmail.com](mailto:amyelise16@gmail.com)) and let her know if you have any preferences for scheduling.

**Joy Beyond the Bend**



*By Joyce Callen*

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 pet. We will meet in the church parking lot September 19th to carpool for lunch at Jim's Ground located on Spencerport Road. We will leave at 11:30 am. When we return to the church, our meeting consists of a meditation, check-in and then we play Crazy Rummy (a simple card game with instructions available and a card shuffler) until 4:00 pm. Please call Joyce Callen (225-3868) or email ([jckokopuff@gmail.com](mailto:jckokopuff@gmail.com)) with questions and to RSVP for lunch by September 16th. The quick response for reservations is appreciated. Our objective is to fill a need and foster friendships. All are welcome.



## 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! Thank you, Joanne Ligtenberg. For more information contact Susan Roth (953-8095) or Joyce Callen (225-3868).



## Messiah's Food Pantry



**Food Distribution needs:** Canned soup, canned pears, cereal, Knorr sides, scalloped or cheesy potatoes, Rice-a-Roni, Noodle Roni and ground coffee. Place in bin under the table by the stairs. **Checks and gift cards (Aldi's espe-**

**cially helpful) are always welcome.** Place in offering plate, mail, or use one of the methods below.

**Donations to our Food Pantry** may be made online, as well as by mail or offering plate, using one of the following methods:

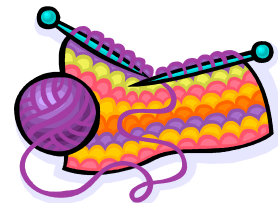
- Messiah's Food Pantry page on our website (where the link is used):  
<http://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net/content/food-pantry>
- PayPal donation link:  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=5CUM2F7D2LHUU](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5CUM2F7D2LHUU)



• QR code (will take people to that same PayPal link as above)

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 meets at church the first Tuesday of the month at 12:30 pm. We are working on making prayer shawls and also newborn baby hats to donate to the hospitals. Yarn and patterns will be available if you need some inspiration! So, bring your hooks and needles and come and join us on the couch and chairs opposite the Library. For those of you who aren't able to join us each month, if you would like to make either prayer shawls or newborn baby hats, it would be much appreciated! Any questions contact Sharon Stio at 585-723-1645 or [sstio1950@gmail.com](mailto:ssstio1950@gmail.com).



## PROPERTY

*By Paul Williams*

### Property News

As I sit here writing this article, it is 10 am and only 67° degrees outside. It seems that every summer August hits, and the hot, hot weather of summer takes a break. The cooler weather gives all our air conditioners a needed break!

Do you remember our major elevator disaster in the spring of 2020? I'm sure you do. To refresh your mind, the hydraulic oil plumbing in the elevator pit failed due to the piping rusting through. We had to have 20' of piping and 2 hydraulic jacks (cylinder/piston that raises/lowers the elevator car) replaced. To keep on top of pit water seepage, there has always been a sump pump in there. Additionally, we installed a moisture sensor that will alarm if water in the pit gets a couple of inches deep due to sump pump failing (it has never sounded). Next, we put a dehumidifier on the floor of the pit which drains into the sump crock. And there is an indoor/outdoor temperature and humidity system mounted on the wall in the Scout storage room. The outdoor sensor is in the elevator pit. So now we can go into the Scout room, look at the display unit and see the temperature and more importantly, the humidity level in the elevator pit. With that dehumidifier installed, the pit humidity runs between 35% - 40%. Nice and dry, keeping that rust at bay!

Since spring of 2020, we have kept the natural gas to the kitchen stove turned off. Our stove is old style in that it has active pilot lights that burn constantly, vs. having an electronic ignition. And with 2 ovens and 10 stove top burners, that's a lot of pilots burning many cubic feet of natural gas on a stove that is not being used! Occasionally the stove gas has been turned back on for a service or reception in the Fellowship Hall. And to turn the gas on, that many hundred pound stove must be pulled

away from the wall and someone must squeeze behind the stove to access the gas valve. Well, we put an end to that. We added a gas valve that can be accessed from the left side of the stove. Below you'll see a photo of the new valve.

OK, that's all for this month. Once again, thank you to all who help maintain our facilities. In July, Pastor Hans, Janet Best and Mary Sonnevile worked with the property team to clean up the flower bed around our lawn sign. We are planning some big changes to that flower bed come late September. If you want to be involved, let me know. 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](mailto:paulmwilliams01@hotmail.com)

Here's a photo of the kitchen stove's new gas valve (it's actually yellow, easy to find— wall on the left, back of stove on the right):



## STEWARDSHIP

*By Jim Hartmann*

We are well into our Stewardship of Talents displays in the Church Narthex. These are displays of our Talents that we are sharing with the congregation through Visual Displays. Besides sharing your talents with the congregation, this is a great way to get to know each other in a more personal way. Many parishioners already have shared their Visual Arts and Crafts, Textile Talents, Performance Art Talents and Specialized Tal-

ents. We are now currently displaying the Gardening Talents category.

Next up, starting September 10th is Culinary Arts Talents. This will complete our monthly display categories. These displays are inclusive for everyone who would like to share. These displays could be actual items that you have created, photos of your creations, a description of your creation or a combination. Even with the different categories, or if you missed displaying in one of the previous categories, you do not have to stay within those boundaries. Whatever you want to share with us is what we would like to see, at any time.

Another aspect of our Stewardship of Talents continuing throughout the summer is the acknowledgement of gifts and talents that we see in others in our congregation. There are many talents shared every week by our congregation in and around our church. To acknowledge something that you see in someone at church, there are slips of paper available with the phrase "I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_ who uses their talent of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_." In the Narthex, on the table between the stairs, there is a box for these slips of paper to be put in. These slips of paper will be in the bulletin at times as well as available next to the box in the Narthex. So, if you see something in someone around church, write it down and put it in the box. We will be sharing these acknowledgments with the congregation in the coming months.

Thank you ALL for being Good Stewards



## Troop 130 Eagle Court of Honor -

On Monday, August 14th at Messiah Lutheran Church, Brennan Hancock received BSA Scouting's highest rank, that of Eagle Scout.



For his Eagle project, Brennan helped renovate the basement of the Charlotte Library this past spring, a project totaling almost \$900. The project was fully funded and included over 163 total work hours.

A past recipient of the troop's Al Climer Scouter Award, given to a scout of high character that embodies the values of the scout oath and law, Brennan earned 32 merit badges on his way to Eagle Gold and Bronze Palm awards, as well as membership in the Order of the Arrow brotherhood and the Ad Altare Dei religious award.

Brennan has been a member of Troop 130 for eight years, before that, he received his Arrow of Light through Pack 163 in Webster.

Brennan was an honor student at Bishop Kearney High School, where he was captain of his cross country and outdoor track teams. He begins his studies in computer science at LeMoyne College August 21st.

Brennan is the first (👉 of many to come) of scouts achieving the rank of Eagle from Troop 130 while chartered here at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Terence Hancock  
Troop 130 Committee Chair





# FINANCE

Janet Graves-Wright, Finance Director

## Year-to-Date Financial Highlights

The 2023 financial reports include this “Financial Highlights” Herald column containing categories that may be of particular interest to our members. The next Quarterly Report for the months of April, May and June will be distributed this month. **Please note:** The *Pledged to Actual Comparison* in the chart below includes all projected and received contributions – Benevolent giving is not excluded.

### Financial Highlights (as of June 30, 2023)

		Percent of Budget
Budgeted Income	\$152,454.14	45.22%
Unbudgeted Income	<u>\$39,943.60</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$192,397.94</b>	
Unbudgeted		
Benevolence Income	\$22,373.80	
<b>Pledged to Actual Comparison</b>		
Annual Pledges	\$180,225.00	
Actual through March	\$105,210.14	58%
Budgeted Expenses		
Budgeted Expenses	\$177,113.76	51.23%
Unbudgeted Expenses	<u>\$41,204.45</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$218,318.21</b>	



# THANK YOU

Dear Messiah Friends – Funeral thanks  
 At this late date I would like to tell you how much you are appreciated. The way people came together to provide a worry free service and a wonderful reception just amazes me. Surely you were God’s hands. Thanks to altar guild, usher, meal cookers (I knew I should have made 6 meatloaves), setter uppers, taker downers, cleaner uppers, etc. etc. This was truly a gift to me and my family.

Pam Nicholls

# COMMUNICATIONS

**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/>

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 12<sup>th</sup> of the month





# 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

**CREATED**

**TO**  
*the tAble*

**BE**

**MYLE**  
Young  
Adult  
Gathering

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Joanne Niemi	President	joanneniemif@frontier.com
Sheri Treadwell	At Large	sheri.treadwell@gmail.com
Janet Graves-Wright	Finance Director	JanetG.ROWellness@gmail.com
Mark Sutliff	Outreach	marksutliff@gmail.com
Paul Williams	Property	paulmwilliams01@hotmail.com
Shelly Knapp	Worship	mknapp512@gmail.com
Amy Trichanh	Youth and Family	amyelise16@gmail.com
Andy Mitchell	Adult Faith Formation	andrew.david.mitchell@gmail.com
Jim Hartmann	Stewardship	jim_hartmann@yahoo.com
Laurie Simonson	Communication	laurie.a.simonson@gmail.com





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2023