



The Messiah **Messenger**

March 2016

Published Monthly

THE MEETING OF SEASONS

Here in Michigan, seasons seem to run together. Even though December 23 may mark the first day of winter, the cold temps and snow have often visited us. Even this past month, we had 60 degrees on a Saturday and a foot of snow the following Wednesday! It's hard to tell when one season starts and another season stops. They can slowly meld together.

In the Church, we try hard to keep this from happening.

Last year we added a new service to Holy Week: the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil is a historic service that has gone by the wayside because people are attending services less frequently and not more. I get that; I understand. I am a "Johnny-Come-Lately" to the Easter Vigil. I started celebrating this service about two years ago. But I have come to realize how it helps to tie Lent and Easter together.

Our Good Friday service is a Tenebrae Service, a service that moves from light to darkness. It symbolizes the growing darkness of Jesus' betrayal, trial, and abandonment. Following the reading of each lesson, a candle is extinguished and the sanctuary slowly dims until the very end where the Pascal Candle, the symbol of Christ's presence among us, is carried out of the Sanctuary. In His death, Emmanuel is no longer with His people because He has suffered the separation from God that we have deserved. The service ends in darkness and silence. This is how Lent ends.

This is not how the story ends. On Saturday, in our Easter Vigil, we start where we ended on Friday. We start outside in the setting sun gathered around a new fire. We gather around the same Paschal Candle and dedicate it for another year of service. Then the people of God each light a candle from that Christ Candle and together we join with the symbol of Christ as it enters the Sanctuary; Christ has rejoined His people by rising from the dead. The Vigil continues as we read various lessons from Scriptures that show God's light entering or re-entering the world. Following each of the readings, a candle is lit and the darkened room is refilled with the light of Christ. Easter Vigil is the first service of Easter; it was celebrated even before Sunrise Services. This is how Easter begins.

These two services help us to mark the glorious season of Easter. It reminds us each year of the promise given in Revelation 21:23-25: "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there."

In these two services we see this truth played out. Darkness is ended. Light triumphs. Jesus is with us and where He is there is light. In Easter, the season of darkness, death, and despair is ended. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world; the Light no darkness can overcome!

Seeking and growing with you,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

EASTER BREAKFAST

There will be an Easter Breakfast between services on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016. There will be gluten free casseroles, egg free casseroles, regular breakfast casserole, donuts, pastries, fruit and fruit juices.

Currently we are looking for volunteers to bring in pastries, donuts, fruit and juices. If you wish to help with this endeavor, please contact Sue Wilson at the church Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or at 517-896-9871; or Sara Vanderbilt at 615-557-6792 any evening after 6:00 or when you see her around the church.

We hope this is a huge success and the family of Messiah can come together in fellowship, no matter which service you attend.

EASTER FLOWER SALE

Messiah will again be partnering with the Holt Lions Club, offering Easter lilies, tulips in a variety of colors, and this year we have added daffodils to our selection. All plants are \$10.00 each. Donations exceeding \$10.00 per plant will be credited to Messiah's flower fund. Plants will be used for Easter Vigil and Easter services and can be taken home either after late service on Easter Sunday, or left to be used for services on April 3rd and then taken home. Order and payment deadline is Wednesday, March 16th. Order sheets and payment envelopes are in the Narthex.

PLANNED GIVING BOARD

In 2016 Planned Giving hopes to continue to receive gifts and bequests to use for further growth at Messiah. In 2015, the PGB was able to help support a church in Charlevoix, MI as well as provide funding to properly illuminate the new driveway entrance here at Messiah. The PGB is able to designate endowment fund monies for these and similar projects in 2016. There are two ways members of the congregation can participate in this ministry.

1. Through personal planned giving. “Planned giving” means creating a specific plan for a gift that typically goes beyond the gifts we make throughout the course of a year. Many people first consider planned giving when preparing a will or along with other estate planning, but planned giving can be made part of our financial plan at any time in our lives. Those who make planned gifts are often motivated by a strong commitment to a particular project or mission of the church. The planned gifts they make acknowledge their gratefulness to God and fulfill their goal of supporting charitable work important to them, work that reflects their values and commitments. In addition, planned givers may receive tax benefits and lifetime income through several types of tax-favored plans. Planned giving takes many forms and can be tailored to meet the needs and goals of the donor. A person’s dreams make each gift unique and important, and planned giving is not only for the wealthy -- each of us finds ourselves materially blessed in many ways. Martin Luther stated, “The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.” Planned gifts to our church endowment fund ensure our mission will continue into the future. Our endowment fund is held at InFaith Community Foundation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Professional gift planners at the Foundation can help you make a gift that matches your interests and financial circumstances.

2. Submitting a grant request form. The PGB meets quarterly (more frequently as needed) to review grant requests. Grant requests may be filled out and submitted to the church office by any member of the church. Requests must benefit one of four categories: Educational Ministries, Capital Projects, Special Ministries, or Evangelism so long as consistent with the congregation's mission and vision. The endowment fund provides a means and structure to promote specific needs and support our mission of witnessing to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the PGB.

Erin House (chair), Chris Gilliland (recording secretary),
Ellen Biergen (financial secretary), Kerry Chubb, Sara Vanderbilt, Dennis Greenman,
Rick Stanley and Pastor Vanderbilt (Ex Officio).

Hope is on the Way

Winter can drag on, especially for those of us living in northern states. We've dealt with snow, cold winds, slippery roads and very little sunlight. Some of us may even struggle with "Seasonal Affective Disorder", a medical condition due partly from a lack of sunshine. People may feel depressed or melancholy.

We can't wait for the temperatures to rise, the robins to sing and the first flowers to burst through the soil. Spring brings with it hope, new life and anticipation of things to come. Farmers look forward to tilling the fields, planting the crops and starting the cycle of life again. We wait with anticipation of planting the garden or tending our flower beds.

The Jews of 2000 years ago must have longed for a new glimpse of God's favor. No word had come from the Lord for some time. They lived under powerful Roman rule and no doubt hoped for more, something better. The Old Testament prophecies were well known, familiar to the masses. But when would they be fulfilled? Patience may have been growing thin.

We started the winter season celebrating the fulfillment of the prophecy, the birth of Christ. That excitement gave way to the constant routine of winter, trying to stay warm and just get by. But now as spring draws close, we experience the many emotions of Good Friday and Easter. Watching Jesus suffer the cold reality of sin and death is a sober reminder to us. Then Easter Sunday breaks the frigid chains of death, leaps forward with Christ's resurrection and reminds us of the eternal Spring we know with the promise of Heaven.

All of us have been greatly blessed and we can be a wonderful blessing to those closest to us. As we anticipate the time we get to go home, we can work to complete our Estate Plans, share our faith, care for our families and leave a gift to support our favorite ministries. Let's be sure to communicate the things that are most important to us. Talk about our faith and why the gifts to ministry are an important part of our plans. Our gifts may be the ray of Hope that encourages others to keep telling the Message of Jesus to the world.

Bill Burmeister
Church Extension Fund – Michigan District
800-242-3944 ♦ bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org



This document is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice. Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.

Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule

5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842 www.messiahlutheranholt.org
 517-6941280
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March 2016

	3/6/2016	3/13/2016	3/20/2016	3/27/2016
8:30 AM Elder Acolyte Reader Usher Screens Altar Guild	Ernie Schuette Tyler Rutter Diane Bennett Don Schneeberger Craig Cumbow Team A5	Mark Reister Kenzie Greene Janet Robson Craig Cumbow Team A2	Mark Reister Tyler Rutter Maggie Schultz 0 Don Schneeberger Sherrri TerBush Team A3	Jeff Rutter Tyler Rutter Diane Bennett Meredith Foster Teams A3 & A4 0
11:00 AM Elder Acolyte Reader Usher Screens Altar Guild Worship Team	Gene Wilson Lucas Nunn James Keat Jeff Wurzler Cheryl Schlattman Team A5 0	Jon Wulff Teresa Carl Alex Allen Team A2 0	Jon Wulff Lucas Nunn Krista Ried 0 Paul Schlattman Cheryl Schlattman Team A3 0	Tom Large Alex Allen Teams A3 & A4 0

	3/2/2016	3/9/2016	3/16/2016
7:00 PM Elder Reader Screens Altar Guild	Mike Wagner Ellen Biergans Meredith Foster Team A4	Mike Wagner Janet Robson Team A5 0	Mike Wagner Maggie Schultz Team A2 0

	3/24/2016	3/25/2016	3/26/2016
7:00 PM Elder Reader Screens Altar Guild	Ernie Schuette Janet Robson Meredith Foster Team A4	Tom Large Craig Cumbow Team A5 0	Ernie Schuette Team A2 0

3/2/16 12:09 PM



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Melanie Alvord 4	Jayne Youngs 21
Carol Laur 4	Paige Meyer 22
Gabriella Gray 5	Sherrie Nunheimer 22
Andrienne Sandtveit 6	Christopher Winkel 22
Richard Stanley 6	James Curtis 23
Molly Noss 9	Edward Kodish 23
Tracy Rutter 11	Zachary Morley 25
Alexis Kelbert 12	Scott House 26
Sherri TerBush 13	Cynthia Wulff 26
Amy Cumbow 14	Llynn Wagner 27
Cheryl Haskell 15	Mark Reister 28
Bruce Schraft 16	Ella Wurzler 28
Kelsea Barcelow 17	Karen Kopper 29
Jessica Bonkoski 17	Jacquelyn Lack 30
Rhonda Fleming 17	Eleanor Stanley 31
David Wingert 18	Sara Vanderbilt 31
Krista Ried 21	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Ray & Julie Baily 3/16/1971	Gene & Sue Wilson 3/20/1992
Fred & Sondra Klepper 3/15/1975	Jim Hanson & Lois Snover-Hanson 3/27/1985



THANK YOU!

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for their prayers and the wonderful Christmas bag I received. I also want to thank Bill Lack for coming out and giving me communion and praying with me. I very much appreciate all the blessing that have been given to me.

Cathy Kundrock



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MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	2 6p Head to the Heart 7p Service	3 7p Elders Meeting	4 4:30p Fish Dinner	5 9:30a First Place 4 Health
6 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	7	8 6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir 7p Trustee AT	9 6p Head to the Heart 7p Service	10 6:30p Education AT	11 4:30p Fish Dinner	12 9:30a First Place 4 Health
13 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	14 7p Planned Giving	15 6:15p MC ² 4:30p Newsletter Deadline 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	16 6p Head to the Heart 7p Service	17 7p Management Mfg	18 4:30p Fish Dinner	19 9:30a First Place 4 Health
Palm Sunday 20 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	21	22 6:15p MC ² 7p Choir	23	24 Maundy Thursday 7p Service	25 Good Friday 7p Service	26 Easter Vigil 7p Service
Easter 27 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	28	29 6:30p Crossways	30 6p Head to the Heart	31 7p Governing Board		