



# *The Messiah* **Messenger**

January 2017

Published Monthly

## PEACE IN OUR TIME

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” –Matthew 5:9***

In December, the Associated Press took a poll to find the Top Ten News Stories of 2016. Some the items that made their list were: The U.S. Presidential Election, Police Attacks on Blacks, Attacks on Police Officers, and the war in Syria. During the Christmas season, we join the angels singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...” but these news stories seem to proclaim anything but peace.

These stories show the strife that is out in our world but what about the discord in our own lives as well? Are there relationships in your life that are strained, stretched, or just plain broken? Is there a sliver of a disagreement that has gone unresolved for so long it has grown into a full-blown sore subject that can never be touched? Are there divisions among your family and friends that are just avoided rather than addressed? If you’re like me (and I believe that you are), then there’s not as much peace in your life as you would like.

There is hope. The whole purpose of Christmas is to address hard problems. When God had a problem with humanity, He came to earth to deal with it face-to-face in Jesus Christ to address it and ultimately to fix it but not necessarily to take it away. Peace is not the absence of conflict; peace is the active faith in Jesus Christ in the midst of conflict. Biblical peace creates a Christ-centered righteousness that brings people together in love. God’s peace is not the absence of a negative; it is a positive presence while life happens around us.

In January, we’re going to explore how a working faith in Jesus Christ while conflicts rage around us. I’m calling it: “Peace in our Time” and I’ll outline how the Bible teaches us to activate our faith in times of disagreement. Here’s what we’ll talk about:

*January 8: “Blessed are the Peacemakers”—The Call to be Ambassadors of Christ*

*January 15: “When Your Peace is Stolen”—For the Offended*

*January 22: “When You’re to Blame”—For the Offenders*

*January 29: “Called Out of Conflict”—Christ Makes Us Like Him*

You and I have been adopted as sons and daughters of our loving God in Holy Baptism. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation in our world as ambassadors of Christ. I hope you will join us in January as we learn how to conduct this necessary ministry to the world.

Seeking and Growing,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

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**BIBLE STUDY:****The Mission of Jesus, Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos**

I am so excited to be offering the latest Ray VanderLaan Bible study beginning in January. As most of you know, he is one of my personal favorites as a Bible study leader.

We have been going through his many studies over the years and I truly believe he gets better and more passionate the more he produces. This is #14 in his That the World May Know Series. This study just came out this past summer and is entitled, The Mission of Jesus. The sub-title is: Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos. This is a 5 week study covering the following topics:

Capernaum: Jesus Binds the Evil One

Decapolis: The Other Side-Jesus and the Man From the Tombs

Crucifixion: The Coronation of a King

Ascension: The King Takes His Throne

Pentecost: God Changed His Address

All these topics lead nicely into our Lent season.

I am going to be leading the class on Wednesday nights beginning January 4th through February 1st at 6:30 p.m. The class will last approximately 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours depending on discussion.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex soon to get a head count and order enough materials. The plan is to meet in the Good Shepherd Room. Those of you who have children in Head to Heart, stick around and attend the class. You will have some interesting things to share with them. I am so looking forward to sharing VanderLaan's insights with you next year!!!

Yours in Christ,  
Jackie Lack

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## Coming to Messiah Lutheran Church

Saturday, January 21st

At 7:00 p.m.

### **ELDEN KELLY**



Elden Kelly is an improviser, band leader, guitarist, composer and singer-songwriter. He is known for a type of classically-influenced jazz and world music. Of a live performance, reviewer Lawrence Cosentino wrote, "He meandered from the Ganges to Delta blues, bluegrass, flamenco and a folk idiom so heartfelt it bordered on the devotional." After graduating from Boston's prestigious New England Conservatory of Music with a degree in Contemporary Improvisation in 2008, Elden accepted a full scholarship and teaching assistantship at Michigan State with Rodney Whitaker, earning a graduate degree in 2011 in Ethnomusicology.

Kelly is an active educator. He serves as adjunct professor of music at Jackson College, faculty at Jackson Symphony Orchestra Community Music School, private instructor to over 30 students, and also regularly teaches workshops at Elderly music. He has served as a guest lecturer in guitar at Western Michigan University and as a teaching assistant at Michigan State University Jazz Studies program and joins the Kalamazoo College Music department as guitar instructor this academic year.

In addition to nylon string guitar, Kelly is known for his work on the Glissentar, an 11-string fretless guitar which conjures up sounds reminiscent of India, Africa and the Middle East, or "Indo-Turkish bluegrass."

Kelly's recorded offerings are just beginning to showcase the scope and diversity of his ability. His 2007 release with vocalist Le Zhang, *Dreams of Yesterday* features a mix of jazz, and Chinese folk songs. His follow-up CD, *1000 Doors* is a compilation of original music settings for solo voice and guitar of the sacred writings of the Baha'i Faith. His 2010 Solo EP, is a collection of his original songs and instrumentals. January 2013 saw the release of his newest recording, *Solo Sessions, Volume 1*, a contemplative instrumental guitar album that highlights Kelly's ability to blur the line between composition and improvisation. He has also been featured on dozens of albums as a collaborative artist. Kelly has recently recorded with Paul Simon's bassist Bakithi Kumalo ("You Can Call Me Al") and percussionist Jamey Haddad as a session guitarist on the album "Love is Awake" that reached #1 on the iTunes World Music charts.

## **Generosity Adds Value to Life**

Many of the happiest people in life are those who are generous. Being generous is not a self-taught trait. It is a gift that was given to us by our Creator, who is even more generous than we can imagine. Malachi 3:10 reads, bring the whole tithe into the storehouse....Test me in this, and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room for it.

People who give their time, live outside of themselves. They give but they also receive. As they give away their time, it has a way of giving to them. Ask anyone who has returned from a "Mission Trip". They express a sense of satisfaction from serving and helping others, but are even more excited about the blessings they received from the people they served.

People who give their talents know the joy that comes from helping others. Can you picture the heart-felt thanks demonstrated by the family who just saw the roof repaired, the landscape completed or the house painted after years of struggling to finish the project? What about the young child who with your coaching and encouragement makes their first basket? Now that's excitement!

Still others give their treasures, whether in small or large amounts. They are passing on what was given to them to manage and use. They want to share and make a difference in the lives of others. Family is often the first recipient of those treasures. Estate gifts can also have a huge impact in the lives of many people outside the family. Remembering ministries that serve the spiritual and physical needs of those around us can make a difference for generations to come.

For the Christian, being generous is a powerful way to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ. Generosity of time, talent and treasure adds value to life. You can directly make an impact in the world by sharing your gifts, along with setting a great example for others to follow. How will your example make a difference to the people and ministries you love?

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Bill Burmeister  
Church Extension Fund – Michigan District  
800-242-3944 ♦ [bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org](mailto: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](http://www.messiahlutheranholt.org) / 517-6941280  
[office@messiahlutheranholt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranholt.org)

# January 2017

	1/1/2017	1/8/2017	1/15/2017	1/22/2017	1/29/2017
8:30 AM	10:00 AM				
Elder	Mike Wagner	Mark Reister	Scott Greene	Gene Wilson	Ernie Schuette
Acolyte	0	Ruthie Clinton	Kenzie Greene	Mathias Nielsen	Nathan Dolton
Reader	Diane Bennett	Diane Bennett	Janet Robson	Janet Robson	Janet Robson
Usher	0	Don Schneeberger	Don Schneeberger	Don Schneeberger	Don Schneeberger
Screens	0	Meredith Foster	Craig Cumbow	Meredith Foster	Craig Cumbow
Altar Guild	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 AM					
Elder	0	Jerry Smith	Tom Large	Jon Wulff	Jeff Rutter
Acolyte	0	Charlie Gietzel	Megan Schlattman	Cailey Mills	Lucas Nunn
Reader	0	Krista Ried	JoEllen Miskowski	Jessica Bonkoski	Jessica Bonkoski
Usher	0	0	Paul Schlattman	0	0
Screens	0	0	Alex Allen	Alex Allen	0
Altar Guild	0	0	0	0	0



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Trent Stuewe 1	Steven Jenkins 14
Melissa Winkel 1	Patrick Dolton 15
Bonnie Root 3	Barb Dickerson 16
Amber Bitters-Nunn 5	Helen Geiger 16
Nathan Dolton 5	Elaine Volker 16
Elizabeth Malinowski 5	Laurel Jelenek 17
Perry Schweitzer 6	Kaitlin Jennings 20
Leighlend Wurzler 7	Ron Pride 20
Bob McKean 8	Jonah House 23
Ernie Schuette 8	Tasha Mills 24
Kelly Hude 9	Joyce Powers 24
Daniel Blodgett 10	Stan Chubb 29
Carolyn Flamme 10	Marsha Ericks 31
Jenna Greenman 11	Jack Lucas 31
Amy Kelly 11	Alina Powers 31
Steve Stier 11	

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Mark & Maggie Schultz  
1/5/1980

Jim & Julie Keat  
1/23/1970

Jerry & Marsha Ericks  
1/25/1964





Messiah Lutheran Church  
 5740 W Holt Rd  
 Holt, MI 48842  
 517-694-1280  
 Office@messiahlutheranholt.org

# JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00a Worship	2	3	4 6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	5 7p Elders Meeting GSR	6	7
8 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	9 7p Trustee AT Paul	10 6:15p MC <sup>2</sup> 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir	11 6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	12 6:30p Education AT Paul 7p Fellowship Paul	13	14 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
15 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship All Youth Lock-in	16	17 6:15p MC <sup>2</sup> 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir	18 6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	19 7p Governance Board GSR	20 7p Euchre Night Gym	21 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
22 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	23	24 6:15p MC <sup>2</sup> 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir	25 6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	26 7p Team Meeting GSR	27	28 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
29 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	30	31 6:15p MC <sup>2</sup> 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir				