



February 2016

Published Monthly

"CROSS WORDS"

The seven weeks of Lent are devoted to reflecting on the suffering and death of Christ. But Lent is also a good time to hear afresh the words of the Lord. As Jesus said: "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). This Lenten season we will give attention to those of life that Jesus spoke while in the midst of death. These seven last words from the cross are His "cross words."

The last words of Jesus provide us an insight and understanding into those things that He thought most important: Forgiveness, Eternal Life, Family, Suffering, and more. These words, which are usually reserved for Good Friday, will be a great guide for our understanding of Jesus' Passion and death for us. This preparation will help to make Easter a much more joyous occasion.

Our mid-week Lenten services will be every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The "Cross Words" theme will follow this schedule:

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10): "Father, Forgive Them"

Lent 1 (Feb. 17): "You Will Be With Me in Paradise"

Lent 2 (Feb. 24): "Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother"

Lent 3 (March 2): "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

Lent 4 (March 9): "I Thirst"

Lent 5 (March 16): "It Is Finished"

Maundy Thursday (March 24): "Father, Into Your Hands I Command My Spirit"

On Good Friday (March 25), we will once again follow our service of Tenebrae and our Easter celebration will begin with the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 26.

I pray that you will join us in this journey to the cross of Christ so that we can rejoice in His resurrection that much more on Easter Sunday.

Seeking and growing with you,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

MISSION GIVING FOR 2016

As you may have noticed, there was no “Grateful Giving” program outlined in last month’s *Messiah Messenger*. Our mission giving has been updated and streamlined so that it is more in line with biblical principles of stewardship. In 2016, Messiah’s mission giving will be **intentional**. We will focus on regular gifts to fewer ministries instead of the lesser gifts that were given to many ministries. Likewise, our mission giving will be **proportional**. Our gifts will not be whatever loose money may be found in the offering plates but will, instead, be a percentage of the total *regular* offerings of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Following these principles, this is what the Mission Giving for Messiah looks like in 2016.

The **Michigan District** will receive 5% of our regular offerings, which is estimated at \$15,000 for the year. This will aid the District as they support ministry throughout our state and start new missions in Michigan and abroad.

The **Mid-Michigan Lutheran High School Association** will receive 2% of our regular offerings, which is estimated at \$6,000 for the year. When Messiah voted to become a member of this association, it incurred a \$5,000 per year association fee. Due to some miscommunication, Messiah did not pay this fee for the 2014-15 school year so we are one year in arrears to our commitment. This offering will go to meet our commitment to the MMLHSA and support the great work they are doing in Lutheran secondary education. Also, in an effort to catch up on our commitment, each month’s **“Joyful Noise/ Noisy Offering”** will also be going to the MMLHSA, which will add an estimated \$1,000 per year. With these two offerings, we should fulfill our commitment in 2-3 years.

Youth Haven Ranch in Rives Junction will receive 1% of our regular offerings, which is estimated at \$3,000 for the year. For over 15 years, Messiah has supported Youth Haven Ranch through our Forts and Sorts Servant Event and Christmas in-gatherings of toys, games, and clothes. Many of our lives have been touched by the great work that Youth Haven does with underprivileged and disadvantaged kids in our area. This is a way that we can increase their work.

This year, these offerings will total 8% of our offerings at Messiah. In 2017, our goal will be 10% mission giving and we will need your help. Our District and MMLHSA giving will remain the same but we want to give you a chance to decide the last three ministries we will support throughout the year. Coming in October, we will give you a chance to tell us about great Christian ministries that you think Messiah should support. We will put all of those great ministries before the voters in our November

meeting and the top three selections will get 1% of Messiah's offering for 2017 to support their work.

Seeking and growing with you,

Pastor Tom

SERVANT OPPORTUNITY

For Easter Sunday this year, we would like to have some kind of Easter breakfast. Opportunities to help are by bringing donuts, pastries, fruit bowl, or fruit tray, maybe an egg casserole or breakfast casserole.

We will have the gym set up with tables, and after first service we can serve breakfast and congregate in fellowship while those sneaky little bunnies hide the eggs for the Easter egg hunt. When the bunnies inform us the hunt is ready to begin, the children can go participate and anyone who wishes to watch are welcome to do so, or just sit and relax and get to know some of your fellow Messiah members a little better.

The food will be available until the start of second service, then we will need volunteers to help take care of the leftovers and take tables and chairs away.

So if career or family commitments make it difficult for you to help at other events, maybe, you could use this opportunity.

Sue Wilson and Sara Vanderbilt will be heading up the breakfast, so if you would like to sign up for a casserole of some kind or fruit, please let one of them know so we have a better variety. Let's make this more special than our usual Sunday fellowship hour.

Sara Vanderbilt can be reached at saravanderbilt@hotmail.com and Sue Wilson can be reached at gensue@sbcglobal.net, or just grab us in the next few weeks as you see us.

EUCHRE NIGHT

The Fellowship team will be hosting a Euchre Night on Friday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m. Bring a dollar for the kitty and a snack to share. You don't have to be a card shark to play, just be ready for some fun.

Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule
5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842 www.messiahlutheranholt.org
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February 2016

	2/7/2016	2/14/2016	2/21/2016	2/28/2016
8:30 AM				
Elder	Ernie Schuette	Jeff Rutter	Scott Greene	Ned Gottleber
Acolyte	Irene Nielsen	Tyler Rutter	Kenzie Greene	Tyler Rutter
Reader	Maggie Schultz	Diane Bennett	Janet Robson	0
Usher	Don Schneeberger	Mike Harmon	0	0
Screens	Nancy Jenkins	Meredith Foster	Sherri TerBush	Meredith Foster
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4
11:00 AM				
Elder	Jon Wulff	Tom Large	Jon Wulff	Mark Reister
Acolyte	Bethany Schlattman	Charlie Gietzel	Bethany Schlattman	Blake Showers
Reader		0	Teresa Carl	Sherrie Nunheimer
Usher	Jeff Wurzler		0	JoEllen Miskowski
Screens	Alex Allen	Cheryl Schlattman	Paul Schlattman	Ron Switzer
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Alex Allen	Cheryl Schlattman
Worship Team	0	0	Team A3	Team A4
			0	0

	2/10/2016	2/17/2016	2/24/2016	
7:00 PM				
Elder	Ernie Schuette	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	
Reader	Janet Robson	0	0	
Screens		Craig Cumbow	Craig Cumbow	
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Walters 1
Brian Jennings 2
Robert Dolton 5
Maggie Kodish 7
Kaitlin Kodish 7
Susan Chanel 8
Barbara Monroe 8

Jennifer Criscuolo 8
Malachi Schmidt 18
Betty Bennett 20
Allison Horne 23
Terry Roberts 25
Kara Stuewe 27
Angela Greene 27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mark & Paula Reister
2/7/1976

George & Martha McDowell
2/16/1985

Gary & Sally Kellogg
2/14/1976

Paul & Cheryl Schlattman
2/17/2001

Tom & Kara Stuewe
2/15/1995

Steve & Margaret Jenkins
2/20/1982



DIRECTORY UPDATES

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Ken & Bonnie Root
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FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir	2 6p Head to the Heart GSR	3 7p Edlers Meeting GSR	4 7p Euchre Night	5 9:30a First Place 4 Health Peter	
7 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	8 6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir 7p Trustee AT Paul	9 Ash Wednesday 7p Service	10 6:30p Education AT Paul	11 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	12 9:30a First Place 4 Health Peter	
14 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	15 4:30p Newsletter Deadline 6p ECM Staff Appreciation GSR	16 6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir	17 6p Head to the Heart GSR 7p Service	18 7p Management Mtg GSR	19 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	
21 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	22 7p Planned Giving GSR	23 6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways GSR 7p Choir	24 6p Head to the Heart GSR 7p Service	25 7p Governing Board GSR	26 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	
28 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	29					