



The Messiah **Messenger**

February 2017

Published Monthly

“Wrestling with God”

The story of Jacob’s name change in Genesis 32 has always fascinated me. Jacob is returning to his brother, Esau. He and Esau have had more than a falling out; Jacob “stole” Esau’s birthright from their father Isaac. Jacob has been gone for many years and now he is coming home. The night before he’s set to cross the river, Jacob is visited by a “man” who wrestles with him all night and finally wins by putting Jacob’s hip out of joint, a move that points to a more divine nature in this “man.” Jacob holds on for a blessing and receives it. Jacob’s blessing is for his name to be changed to “Israel,” which means, “He strives with God” or “He wrestles with God.”

Jacob goes on to have twelve sons. Each of these sons becomes a tribe of God’s chosen nation, Israel, which will share in his new name. What fascinates me is that this nation will go on to live out the meaning of this new name. The Old Testament is filled with stories of His people wrestling with Him, struggling to keep His commandments and struggling to hold on to their faith in His providence and mercy. Jacob’s new name becomes prophetic for the life that his descendants live.

I wonder: do we wrestle with God? *Pastor, I would never dream of wrestling with God! He is the Lord; I am His servant. He is my Heavenly Father; I am His child! We never struggle against our leaders? We never resisted our parents? We may like to think that we don’t wrestle with God, but we do.*

In February, we’ll be looking at Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and many of the hard sayings that Jesus says, things like, **“Whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments,” “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away,” “But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also,”** and **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”** How do we understand these parts of Jesus’ sermon? What does it mean for our life today? How must we wrestle with them in our time? That’s what we’ll explore throughout February. I pray you’ll join us for this journey.

Seeking and growing,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Messiah Lutheran Church finished 2016 with positive balance of \$34,157.27. This is thanks to the amazing generosity of the people of Messiah, the continued success of the Messiah Child Development Center (MCDC), and many of the cut-backs that were made in 2015 and 2016.

This positive position means that, right now, all but approximately \$4,000 has been repaid to the Restricted Funds. That deficit is being charged to an internal line of credit designed to absorb small fluctuations like this. In 2016, the Governing Board renamed and repurposed one of the Restricted Funds, the “Van Horne Estate,” to become the “Van Horne Internal Line of Credit.” Currently this fund holds about \$10,000 of value but the actual amount in this fund right now is about \$5,000. As our financial position continues to improve, this fund balance will continue to grow.

While things look good now, there is still some uncertainty. Restricted funds may be available for use, but please check with Messiah’s Governing Board before committing any Restricted Funds. Budgeted Funds are available; Restricted Funds are still subject to availability but chances are good that they can be made available.

Sale of the Haner House:

Messiah closed on the sale of the Haner House at 9426 Billwood Hwy., Dimondale, MI on January 6, 2017. The details of the sale were as follows:

Total Sale:	\$16,500.00
Charges to Seller:	\$4,275.42
Attorney Fees:	\$594.68
NET SALE:	\$11,629.90

After searching through minutes of Voters’ Meetings, there was no definite determination of where these proceeds should go. Pastor Vanderbilt and the Governing Board believe that these proceeds should go to the Planned Giving Board (PGB) to be added to their investment capital so that the PGB can continue to provide blessings to Messiah for many years to come. Any questions or concerns about this decision can be brought to Pastor Vanderbilt or the Governing Board.

Noisy Offering for 2017:

The 2017 Budget of Messiah Lutheran Church calls for intentional, proportional mission giving to the Michigan District, the Mid-Michigan Lutheran High School Association, Youth Haven Ranch, Hannah’s House, and Concordia Seminary’s Adopt-A-Student Program. The Noisy Offering was not factored into this giving.

The Noisy Offering has become such a wonderful blessing that the Governing Board and Pastor Vanderbilt would like to see it continue. Therefore, the Governing Board has directed the Noisy Offering funds to remain with Messiah and be earmarked for any long-term capital improvements. This offering will stay with us and be used to offset projects on the Trustee's "wish list" of things that need to be repaired.

Pastor Vanderbilt and the Governing Board pray that you will continue to support the Noisy Offering each month as we seek to make many much-needed improvements to Messiah Lutheran Church.

THINKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS...

Start watching for clearance sales of winter items--hats, scarves, mittens, slipper socks, etc. These make great gifts for the kids at Youth Haven. All you have to do is remember where you put them come November!

Early Childhood & Kindergarten Program
Open House Events
Wednesday, February 8, 5-7pm
Thursday, May 18, 5-7pm

Stop by to learn about Early Childhood and Kindergarten classes.

Tours Available
5:15pm, 5:45pm, 6:15pm, 6:45pm

Children's Activities Available!

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
7910 E. St Joe Hwy Lansing, MI 48917
517.882.3550 • OurSaviorLansing.org

RSVP: 517-882-3550
admissions@oursaviorlansing.org





Youth at Messiah is comprised of the High School and Head 2 Heart programs. We develop relationships with Christ & each other through Discipleship, Service, and Fellowship.

JOINT High School Youth & Head 2 Heart SERVANT ACTIVITY

Project
**Blessing
Bags**

'If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' — 1 John 3:17

Our Youth will be assembling **Blessing Bags** throughout 2017.

What is a Blessing Bag you may be wondering? It is a gallon size bag filled with personal care items, snacks, and a word of encouragement to be distributed to the homeless persons in the Holt/Lansing area. After assembly, the bags will be available in the narthex for congregational members to pick up and place in their cars. Then, when you come upon a person in need, hand them the bag. These bags will be available starting in February.

How can you help? Donate any of the following (*place donations in the bins in the hallway by the bathrooms!*)

Snacks:

- Tuna/chicken salad cracker kits
- Beef jerky/Meat Sticks
- Raisins/dried fruit
- Snack cups/applesauce/pudding cups
- Breakfast/cereal bars/granola bars
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Candy/Chocolate/Mints
- Snack Mix/Nuts
- Water

Medical & Clothing Items:

- Band-aids
- Chapstick
- Advil Packet
- Cough Drops
- Vitamin C Drink Additive
- Chewable multivitamins
- Hand warmers
- Hat/Gloves
- Socks (warm ones)

Hygiene Items:

- Moisturizer/Lotion
- Deodorant/Antipersperant
- Hand Sanitizer
- Comb
- Tissues
- Wet Wipes/Baby Wipes
- Mouthwash
- Dental Floss
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

February Schedule

- Feb. 1 – Regular Lesson (H2H)
- Feb. 8 – Regular Lesson (H2H)
- Feb. 12 – 2017 Event Planning & Supper (All Youth)
- Feb. 15 – Service Night (All Youth)
- Feb. 22 – Regular Lesson (H2H)

STAY
UPDATED
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JOIN OUR
FACEBOOK
GROUP

www.facebook.com/groups/youthatmessiah

Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule

5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842
 www.messiahlutheranholt.org / 517-6941280
 office@messiahlutheranholt.org

February 2017

	2/5/2017	2/12/2017	2/19/2017	2/26/2017
8:30 AM				
Elder	Jeff Rutter	Mike Wagner	Scott Greene	Mark Reister
Acolyte	Andrew Rutter	Irene Nielsen	Haley Clinton	Tyler Rutter
Reader	Janet Robson	Jackie Lack	Diane Bennett	Maggie Schultz
Usher	0	0	Rich Jenkins	0
Screens	Craig Cumbow	Craig Cumbow	Sherri TerBush	Meredith Foster
Altar Guild	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3
11:00 AM				
Elder	Jon Wulff	Jerry Smith	Tom Large	Gene Wilson
Acolyte	Charlie Gietzel	Brett Showers	Beth Schlattman	Laney Waugh
Reader	Teresa Carl	JoEllen Miskowski	Jessica Bonkoski	Krista Ried
Usher	Zach Gietzel	0	0	Ron Switzer
Screens	Alex Allen	Cheryl Schlattman	Cheryl Schlattman	Alex Allen
Altar Guild	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Brian Jennings 2
 Robert Dolton 5
 Maggie Kodish 7
 Kaitlin Kodish 7
 Susan Chanel 8
 Jennifer Criscuolo 8
 Barbara Monroe 8

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Mark & Paula Reister
 2/7/1976

Gary & Sally Kellogg
 2/14/1976

Tom & Kara Stuewe
 2/15/1995

George & Martha McDowell
 2/16/1985

Paul & Cheryl Schlattman
 2/17/2001

Steve & Peggy Jenkins
 2/20/1982



Thank You!

Friends at Messiah,

Thank you for all your prayers, well wishing, food and funds at the occasion of the death of my husband, Scott. This has been the most challenging and single most horrible experience of my life. You have all made it a little more bearable. I cannot say thank you enough for all you have done for me. Thank you.

I love you all, Leslie.



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

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	7p Trustee AT Paul	6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	7p Elders Meeting GSR		9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	7p Trustee AT Paul	6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	6:30p Education AT Paul 7p Fellowship Paul		9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship		6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	7p Governing Board GSR		9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship		6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	7p Team Meeting GSR		9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
26	27	28				
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship		6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir				