



# *The Messiah* **Messenger**

July 2016

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## **OF BACK FLIPS, BELLY-FLOPS, AND CHALLENGING OURSELVES**

I spent about 45 minutes one Tuesday afternoon on a raft in the middle of Lake Okoboji. It was swim time at Youth Week and there were a few campers splashing around. So, I decided to hold an impromptu Belly Flop Contest. For the huge cash prize of \$1, camper after camper would purposefully land on his (or her) stomach, hoping to be judged as the "best" belly-flopper. Forget what on-lookers would say or how their mid-sections would feel in the morning; it was all about the buck. When they emerged from the water, their faces told of the pain that they had just gone through for a dollar.

Some didn't want that kind of pain, so I taught them to do back flips. We had a couple of people who had never done one but with a little bit of coaching, they were flipping like pros in just a few minutes. My constant tag line for this was: "Not only will you leave camp knowing Jesus but you can also do a back flip." It was really cool to see the look on a camper's face when they came back up from the surface. No matter how the rest of the world perceived the back flip, there was a smile on the flipper's face as he or she came up and heard the applause from the on-lookers. It was the unmistakable mark of one who had just exorcised their inner demons and done something that fear had kept them from doing. The smiles all said one thing: victory!

In life, so many of us are willing to endure a lot of pain for a small reward. For some, they are willing to wreck a long-term relationship for a short-lived affair. Others are willing to endanger our lives for a quick fix, whether it be money or just the thrill of getting away with something. Many times, we take huge risks for something that won't last a year. Just as I was amazed at all the people willing to endure the pain of a belly flop for a measly buck, I am often amazed at other types of pain that people will endure for a reward that doesn't last.

But, sometimes the risk is worth the reward. To learn a new skill can be scary...really scary and life-changing. To meet a new person, to take a new position, to change careers or leave a place that feels like home, all of these things can make the best of us seize up in fear at wondering what will happen next. Before we know it, we feel like we're 13 again, standing on the edge of a dock, about to flip our heels over our head and come within mere inches of certain injury or worse, embarrassment.

But all of this is kid-stuff, right? There's a reason we do this stuff when we're younger: we don't know any better. Or at least that's the lie that we tell ourselves. We like to tell ourselves that we're too old to play around with learning new things or trying new experiences. We're set in our ways. Our bodies can't do what they used to. And, sometimes, there's some truth to that. Yet, I can't help but wonder do we stop playing because we grow old or do we grow old because we stop playing?

What would you do if no one was watching? What's stopping you?

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### **PLANNED GIVING BOARD JUNE MEETING**

At its June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Planned Giving Board (PGB) welcomed two new members, Llynn Wagner and Rhett Reid, whose two year terms were approved at Messiah's May Voter's meeting. Also at that meeting, Chris Gilliland was reappointed to a two year term. The PGB wishes to acknowledge the service of outgoing members Dennis Greenman who has served on this Board since its inception, and Rick Stanley who also served numerous terms on the Planned Giving Board. Their input, guidance and participation is greatly appreciated.

Only one Grant Request was presented to the PGB for consideration. A \$2,000.00 grant to assist with expenses to fund our annual Forts and Sorts event at Youth Haven Ranch was requested and approved. The grant will cover revenue shortages resulting from lower than usual volunteer enrollments and the loss of a grant usually received from our District which was not available this year.

Grant Funds are still available for this calendar year. If your Action Team, group or committee has an idea or activity that could benefit from financial assistance, Grant Request Forms can be obtained from Mark Martin or you can contact Chairperson, Erin House for additional information.

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### **TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A THANK YOU - I just wanted to let you all know how much I have enjoyed serving you in the last 3.5 years. We have had some very interesting things go on in that period of time, from losing a Pastor and DCE to getting another Pastor.

Working with the Trustees, Elders and Fellowship and Education and early childhood ministry team and all the others has been very rewarding and I consider it an honor to have been able to assist them. Working with the children of MCDC was truly a joy and an indescribable blessing in being able to see those sweet little faces daily. I am sure I will miss the conversations we had on a weekly basis, but I am ready to retire and look forward to more crafting and more traveling. Sue Wilson



**From June 19-25, Messiah hosted 10 youth from Messiah in Holt and Grace Lutheran, New Albany, Indiana at our Forts & Sorts Servant Event at Youth Haven Ranch.**

We worked on various maintenance projects like clearing brush, power-washing and staining structures, and painting the clothing barn. We also started building a maze that future campers will be able to have fun in.

**Participants from Messiah were:**

- Anika Reid
- Derek Jennings
- Hailey Clinton
- Ruthie Clinton
- Sara Vanderbilt
- Pastor Vanderbilt
- Jerry Smith
- Tom Large
- Jim Jelenek
- Ned Gottleber
- Bill Lack
- George McDowell
- Ron Switzer
- Mike Buuck
- Jon Wulff
- Marty Noss
- Corey Williams

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated food, attended the potluck, and prayed for Forts & Sorts.



Youth Haven Ranch is a non-denominational Christian outreach providing life changing experiences and meeting the needs of disadvantaged youth.

For anyone who has participated in the Forts and Sorts servant event in the past, join our alumni Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/fortsandsorts](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fortsandsorts)).

**TRUSTEES REPORT**

At the June meeting, a report from Consumers Energy was discussed, as it showed a significant increase year over year. Dave Biergans noticed on a Saturday that the building was too cool for being unoccupied. Dave will be contacting Consumers Energy about the report and the Trustees are investigating upgrading the thermostats to better regulate the temperatures for energy efficiency.

The Trustees also took up a discussion again about getting a maintenance program without HVAC contractor to keep the heating and cooling systems working well and efficiently. Bill Soule is following up on this proposal.

Stan Chubb will be contacting a contractor about restoring power to the light pole at the Daycare end of the building that was damaged during the construction of the newer garage. This should tie back into the garage and be activated by light sensor. The timer for the parking lot lights will also be replaced.

Other maintenance projects are underway regarding the lights for the sign and rerouting a drain away from the Daycare play area. Follow up with our vendors about removing the old concrete pole base and the gym floor continue.

Bill Soule will continue to patch holes in the parking lot.

The next meeting is July 11th at 7:00 p.m.

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**MEN'S WORK RETREAT**

A long standing project known as the Men's Retreat will be held at Youth Haven Ranch on September 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be a one day event starting with breakfast at 7:15 a.m. and finish by 4:30 p.m. We will stop for lunch at noon. If you are an able bodied man who loves his Lord, please join us. If you have a son, grandson or nephew who would like spend the day with you, bring them. In the past this has been a day of fellowship working with men from our church whom you may or may not know. Keep the date open, join us and you won't be disappointed.

Jerry Smith



Youth at Messiah is comprised of the High School Program and Head to the Heart. Both programs are built upon Discipleship, Service, and Fellowship – all 3 elements help develop relationships with Christ & each other.

#### Youth @ the Lugnuts – July 10 (Any Student ENTERING Grades 6-12)

- We plan to have pizza after late church and then head to the game

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#### Head 2 Heart (Any Student ENTERING Grades 6-8)

Lord's Supper Retreat–Aug. 26 @ 6:30 pm to Aug. 27 @ 5pm

- This is instruction in the Lord's Supper leading to First Communion
- Details for the retreat will be coming soon!



Head 2 Heart Orientation–Sep. 14 @ 6:30pm

- Learn what is coming up this year in our Head 2 Heart program
- Parents and students are asked to attend

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#### High School Youth (Students ENTERING Grades 9-12)

Youth Week @ Camp Okoboji – July 25 to August 1

- It's not too late to register for this awesome event!
- Registration Fee is \$320
- Transportation costs are paid as well as meals as we travel
- Visit <http://bit.ly/youthweek2016> to register



Board Game Night @ the Vanderbilt's – August 21 @ 6 to 8 pm

- We had to cancel this earlier this year but let's try again!
- We'll eat food and play board games with your fellow High Schoolers

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To stay current on all Youth at Messiah details, join our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/groups/youthatmessiah](http://www.facebook.com/groups/youthatmessiah).

**HOLT HOMETOWN FESTIVAL**

The Holt Hometown Festival will be held on August 19th and 20th this year. Messiah is looking for a team of people to organize our participation in the festival. We are looking for new ideas! Participation could include walking in the parade, decorating a float, hosting a booth or some wonderful new ideas you come up with! If interested in serving with this short term team, please contact the church office.

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**TAYLOR BECK'S DEPLOYMENT ADDRESS**

Taylor's deployment in Turkey should be completed by the end of June. If you wish to send him mail, please use his address at the base in Germany. That address is:

Taylor Beck  
CMR 411 Box 5488  
APO AE 09112

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**CALLING ALL GOLFERS**

Martin Luther High School is having their 1st Annual Golf Outing on August 19, 2016 at Forest Akers West, 3335 Forest Road, Lansing, Michigan. This is a fundraiser to provide funding for Martin Luther High School scholarships and the Maker Space. Registration for a foursome with a cart, continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, beverages, awards and prizes is \$360. For a single, the cost is \$95. Please call a few friends and plan to attend this fun and beneficial event.

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Free range balls  
9:00 a.m. Registration and breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Shotgun start  
11:30 a.m. Lunch on the course  
2:00 p.m. Buffet opens  
2:30 p.m. Awards and prizes

To register online: [www.martinlutherhighschool.org](http://www.martinlutherhighschool.org).

## Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule

5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842

[www.messiahlutheranholt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranholt.org) / 517-694-1280

[office@messiahlutheranholt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranholt.org)

# July 2016

	7/3/2016	7/10/2016	7/17/2016	7/24/2016	7/31/2016
8:30 AM					
Elder	Ned Gottleber	Jeff Rutter	Scott Greene	Gene Wilson	Mark Reister
Acolyte	0	Tyler Rutter	Kenzie Greene	0	Kenzie Greene
Reader	Janet Robson	Ellen Biergans	Maggie Schultz	Diane Bennett	Janet Robson
Usher	Don Schneeberger	Dave Biergans	0	0	0
Screens	Meredith Foster	Craig Cumbow	Meredith Foster	Craig Cumbow	Sherri TerBush
Altar Guild	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5	0
11:00 AM					
Elder	Jeff Rutter	Tom Large	Tom Large	Jon Wulff	Jerry Smith
Acolyte	Tyler Rutter	0	0	Charlie Gietzel	Audrey Harmon
Reader	0	Teresa Carl	Sherrie Nunheimer	Jessica Bonkoski	0
Usher	Ron Switzer	0	Dale Nunheimer	Zach Gietzel	0
Screens	0	Cheryl Schlattman	0	Cheryl Schlattman	0
Altar Guild	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5	0
Worship Team	0	0	0	0	0

	7/6/2016	7/13/2016	7/20/2016	7/27/2016
7:00 PM				
Elder	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner
Reader	0	0	0	0
Screens	0	0	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

William Hammes 3	Brenden Greenman 17	Derek Jennings 30
Grace Wurzler 3	Miriam Nielsen 17	Staci Carl 31
Carcyn Winkel 5	Julia Youngs 17	
Melissa Winkle 5	Jack Dolton 18	
Carcyn Winkle 5	Barbara Sweeney 18	
Teresa Carl 6	Edward Mize 20	
Mitchell Noss 7	Erica Stanley 20	
Zachary Nunn 9	Gene Bateman 21	
Samantha Nunn 9	Chloe Showers 21	
Lawrence Porter 9	Thomas Vanderbilt 22	
Judy Bateman 10	Jacqueline Ladson 23	
Kenzie Greene 11	Sally Kellogg 26	
Nicholas Listermann 12	Teri Morris 26	
Carrie Kodish 15	Ronald Switzer 26	
Sophia Nielsen 15	Leslie Soule 29	
Kathy Harmon 16	Betty Drier 30	

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**



Mike & Chris Gilliland 7/5/1975	Dave & Ellen Biergans 7/21/1984
Ernie & Sandy Schuette 7/6/1968	Gene & Judy Bateman 7/23/1966
Walter & Jane Wonderly 7/6/2001	Craig & Josie Cumbow 7/23/1977
Corey & Alicia Schmidt 7/8/2006	Chris & Melissa Winkel 7/29/2006
Jeff & Tracy Rutter 7/17/1999	Keith & Betty Bonney 7/31/1982
Bill & Jackie Lack 7/18/1992	







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

# JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	4 7p Planned Giving GSR 7p Trustee AT Paul	5 7p Midweek Service	6 7p Midweek Service	7 7p Elders Meeting GSR 7p Youth Action Team Youth Room 7p Fellowship Paul	8 4:30p Newsletter Deadline	9
10 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship 5:00p Youth Activity	11 7p Planned Giving GSR 7p Trustee AT Paul	12 7p Midweek Service	13 7p Midweek Service	14 6:30p Education AT Paul 7p Management Mtg GSR	15	16
17 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	18	19	20 7p Midweek Service	21 7p Governing Board GSR	22	23
24 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	25	26	27 7p Midweek Service	28	29	30 Pastor's Vacation
Pastor's Vacation - Youth Week at Camp Okoboji						
31 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship						
Pastor's Vacation						