



The Messiah **Messenger**

June 2016

Published Monthly

By the Numbers:

Baptized Membership: **321** (+18 since November)

Confirmed Membership: **241** (+12 since November)

Average Weekly Worship: **179** (+9 over this time last year)

Updates:

Heal the Wounds. For the most part, I feel that we have addressed many of the pressing hurts and needs that were here a year ago. I have worked hard to promote genuine dialog and reconciliation between people so that the forgiveness of Christ would abound. However, there are still some hurts that need to be addressed and worked through and there will be new pain in the years forward. This process will be on-going. It will be a function of the ministry of Messiah, not a major focus.

Study our Limitations. The Board of Elders, Governing Board, and I have studied some of the limitations of Messiah over the last year. Sociologically, once a congregation grows to 300 people, there are limitations to what one pastor can do. Deacon Bill Lack provides additional coverage to make sure that we care for all of our members. The Elders have been a godsend in multiplying our pastoral care. We will have to continue to discuss what continued growth will mean for the staffing needs of Messiah.

Gain Focus. I instituted a “no new ministries” guideline last year that was difficult but necessary. This was for two reasons. First, it allowed me some time to crawl and walk as your pastor before we started to run. Second, it allowed us to channel necessary time and resources to areas that needed attention. I focused on our Sunday morning experience because this is the most important thing that we do. Now that we have made some necessary strides, we can begin to look at moving in new directions. I did reach out to a consultant but we opted not to pursue their help because of our financial situation. That item is tabled but not dead.

Financial Concerns. In November 2015 there was some concern about meeting the charitable contributions that we had gathered in our Grateful Giving

program. That same month, we ceased the program. By January 31, 2016, we met all of those obligations. All of the funds that were collected for those various organizations were paid in full.

Youth Ministry Action Team. I've asked my wife, Sara Vanderbilt, to form a team to address youth ministry at Messiah. She and her team will develop and execute a plan for our students in grades 6-12. This will encompass Head to Heart (Confirmation) and a high school program. This team will also receive a budget from Messiah beginning in 2017.

Future Plans:

Congregational Survey. Jackie Lack and I are working on a survey for the members of Messiah to define and measure our discipleship. Based on this survey, we'll develop a pathway of discipleship for Messiah.

Staffing. Sue Wilson has announced her desire to retire at the end of June 2016. The Governing Board has approved filling the vacancy with two separate positions. The first position that we'll pursue is a part-time, contracted, dedicated bookkeeper. This will be a person with a financial background and will be contracted for approximately 6-8 hours per week. The second position will be an Administrative Assistant. This will be a part-time position with 20 set hours which will establish Messiah's office hours. This person will handle a lot of the regular office tasks for Messiah and serve as my executive assistant.

Parking Lot. As we are all aware, our parking lot needs to be addressed. Our Trustees have done a fantastic job of patching and maintaining our existing driveway but there are large problems that need to be fixed. Here are just some of the issues we're experiencing:

The planters on the far side of the driveway hinder the flow of traffic and should be moved.

The current traffic flow needs to be reversed to promote safety and harmony for MCDC families.

We should have the previous driveway fully removed and returned to grass and the remaining spaces marked as handicapped parking.

There is a need for improved lighting in the center parts of parking lot.

The above changes would necessitate repainting the parking lot.

Here's my proposed solution and timeline:

Summer & Fall 2016—Trustees will solicit bids to address resurfacing and regrading the parking lot and make recommendations to the Governing Board. Also, the Treasurer and I will begin discussions with CEF about adding the proposed cost to our existing mortgage.

November 2016—The Governing Board will bring a recommendation to the Voters for approval of the project.

March 2017—When Messiah enters into the next five-year agreement with CEF for the mortgage, the cost of the parking lot repairs would be added to the mortgage. It is unclear what this will do to either the monthly payments or length of term for the mortgage.

Spring/ Summer 2017—Work begins.

Fall 2017—Work complete.

Seeking and growing with you,
Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

VBS VOLUNTEERS

Our 2016 VBS will be held Sunday, June 26-Wednesday, June 29 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. It is our prayer that God has VBS in His plan and purpose for your life! We know that Jesus will work through YOU at VBS. Would you prayerfully consider serving at VBS? Our Volunteer Meeting will be on Sunday, June 5, 2016 between services. Questions? Need more information? Contact Erin House (517-862-4856) or Angie Greene (517-505-0512). THANK YOU!

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.



On June 19-25, Messiah will be hosting the Forts and Sorts Servant Event. This year, 9 youth and 2 adults from Grace Lutheran in New Albany, Indiana along with 4 Youth and 14 adults from Messiah will serve the campers and staff at Youth Haven Ranch.



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

Participants will spend a week putting up a playground, refurbishing an obstacle course, clearing brush, power washing and staining various items around the camp, and many other tasks.

Messiah's team of Volunteers are being led by Jerry Smith (Work Coordinator), Tom Large (Head Chef), Sara Vanderbilt (Project Coordinator) & Pastor Tom (Community Life Leader). Also volunteering is Jim Jelenek, Ned Gottleber, Bill Lack, George McDowell, Jon Wulff, Ron Switzer and Mike Buuck (Jerry's friend from Ohio).

Join Us at the Pot Luck!

- Wednesday, June 22 – prior to worship

Come and meet all the servant event participants at the Pot Luck just prior to worship. The Fellowship Action Team is providing the meat - bring a dish to pass and help us show the youth some of Messiah's wonderful hospitality.

Save the date and plan to attend!

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).

YOUTH HAVEN - FORTS AND SORTHS

On June 19 (Father's Day) we will start another year of serving our Lord at Youth Haven Ranch. For so many years, we have seen the best of our youth from around the country take part in this week long project. This year Sara Vanderbilt steps in to lead us. She and Pastor Tom will head up this servant event known as Forts and Sorts. Messiah has left its print in so many places wherever you look at Youth Haven and this year plan to build on what has already been accomplished. Thanks to all our volunteers with a special nod to JoEllen Miskowski who lead us for the last six years. God Bless all who will support this beautiful mission again this year.

Jerry Smith

MEN'S WORK RETREAT

A long standing project known as the Men's Retreat will be held at Youth Haven Ranch on September 24th. 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

2016 FISH DINNER VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all who donated their time, resources, and energy to this wonderful outreach. Please forgive me if I left your name off of this volunteer list.

Leslie Soule

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|---|--|---|
| Andrews, Peggy and Ben | Jelenek, Jim | Pier, Bob and Glenda |
| Anderson, Linda | Jenkins, Richard | Root, Ken and Bonnie |
| Barcelow, Kelsey | Jenkins, Steve and Peggy | Roberts, Terry and Jackie |
| Biegans, Dave | Jennings, Sue and Derek | Robson, Janet |
| Bitters-Nunn, Amber | Keep, Lynn and Linda | Rutter, Jeff |
| Blodgett, Daniel and Kim | Koernke, Jerry | Schlattman, Paul, Cheryl,
Megan and Brittany |
| Bryant, Jan | Kundrock, Carlene | Schneeberger, Don and Joan |
| Bonkoski, Jessica | Large, Tom and Sherri | Schuette, Ernie and Sandra |
| Carl, Teresa | Lockwood, Savannah | Schultz, Maggie |
| Chamberlain, Jack and Sharron | Lucas, Jack and Mary Ellen | Smith, Gary and Julie |
| Chubb, Kerry | Lueder, Jeff | Soule, Bill and Leslie |
| Cumbow, Craig, Josie and
Ashley | Lueder, Len and Pat | Switzer, Ron and Margo |
| Day, Rachel | MCDC Staff and Children | TerBush, Sally and Sherri |
| Davis, Sarah and Evan | McDowell, Martha | Vanderbilt, Pastor Tom and
Sarah |
| Delhi Township Fire Department | Mity, Calley | Volker, Elaine |
| Foster, Meredith | Martin, Mark | Wagner, Mike and Llynn |
| Gietzel, Tim, Joy, Zachary and
Charlie | Monroe, Phyllis | Weishar, Bonnie |
| Gifford, Leslie | Nielsen, Gerthe | Wilson, Gene and Sue |
| Gilliland, Mike and Chris | Nunheimer, Dale and Sherrie | Wulff, Jon and Cyndy |
| Gottleber, Ned and Chris | Oswald, Carol | Wurzler, Molly |
| Hammes, Laura and Gabe | Pentecost, Todd and Debbie | Zietlow, Betty |
| Hammes, Bill | Porter, Larry | Andrew |
| Harmon, Heather | Power, Robin, Kristin, Alina and
Sydney | Vance |
| Hartenburg, Don | Powers, Joyce | |
| Jackinchuk, Elaine | Pride, Ron and Mary | |

TRUSTEE ACTION TEAM

The Trustees continue to move forward on projects around the church. The conversion of all the parking lot lights from metal halide bulbs to LED has been completed. This will save the church on the electrical bill every month. During the conversion, it was discovered that the light poles by the daycare does not work. It appears that during the construction of the new garage the power line was damaged, The Trustees are getting quotes to have that repaired.

Discussions about moving the dumpster have been restarted. The plan is to move it behind the gym on the West side of the building. Bids are being solicited for making the new concrete pad for this.

The condition of the roof was discussed and there is concern that it will need to be replaced within the next 5 years. Options and material for a new roof are being explored.

The next Trustee meeting will be June 10th at 7:00 p.m.

TAYLOR BECK'S DEPLOYMENT ADDRESS

Taylor's deployment in Turkey will be completed at the end of June. As it takes a few weeks for mail to reach him, it is better at this time to use his address at the base in Germany. That address is:

Taylor Beck
CMR 411 Box 5488
APO AE 09112



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.

Upcoming Events

Youth Ministry Action Team

Our next meeting is June 3 @ 7pm in the Youth Room.

We will be determining the fall 2016 calendar of events and starting to plan the Fall Lord's Supper Retreat. If you wish to help with either of these tasks, please join us.

High School Youth (Grades 9-12)

- Forts and Sorts Servant Event – June 19-25

A number of our high school youth are participating in the Forts and Sorts Servant Event taking place at Youth Haven Ranch this month.



Please keep Anika Reid, Derek Jennings, and Brandon Showers in your prayers as we lead up to and during this event.

On the Radar...

- July 10 – Youth at the Lugnuts
- July 23 to August 1 – Youth Week @ Camp Okoboji (High School)

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

www.facebook.com/groups/youthatmessiah.

Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule
 5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842
www.messiahlutheranholt.org / 517-694-1280
office@messiahlutheranholt.org

June 2016

	6/5/2016	6/12/2016	6/19/2016	6/26/2016
8:30 AM				
Elder	Ned Gottleber	Jeff Rutter	Mark Reister	Gene Wilson
Acolyte	Kenzie Greene	Tyler Rutter	Tyler Rutter	Kenzie Green
Reader	Ellen Biergans	Diane Bennett	Janet Robson	Janet Robson
Usher	Dave Biergans	Don Schneeberger		0
Screens	Meredith Foster	Craig Cumbow	Meredith Foster	Sherri TerBush
Altar Guild	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5
11:00 AM				
Elder	Jerry Smith	Jon Wulff	Jon Wulff	Scott Greene
Acolyte		Charlie Gietzel		0
Reader	Sherrie Nunheimer	Jessica Bonkoski	Jessica Bonkoski	Jessica Bonkoski
Usher	Dale Nunheimer	Zach Gietzel	Ron Switzer	
Screens	Cheryl Schlattman		Cheryl Schlattman	
Altar Guild	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5
Worship Team		0	0	0
7:00 PM	6/1/2016	6/15/2016	6/22/2016	
Elder	Ernie Schuette	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	
Reader	0	0	0	0
Screens	0	0	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A3	Team A4	



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Aaron Krause 1	Mathias Nielsen 15	Sally Hartenburg 24
Kaitlyn Plascencia 2	Paula Reister 15	Nicolas Steuber 24
Margo Switzer 3	Sally TerBush 15	Jocelyn Nowland 25
Amanda Dixon 4	Davin Thelen 15	Hannah Reister 26
Julie Keat 5	Debra Kelbert 16	Gary Volker 26
Tarryn Lueder 5	Ashley Cumbow 17	Gerald Smith 27
Isabella Kodish 6	Andrew Rutter 17	Shannon Bonney 29
Michael Reynolds 6	John Dickerson 18	Danielle Kopper 29
Bonnie Weishar 7	Luther Dickerson 19	Susan Jennings 30
Benjamin Andrews 10	Thomas Large 20	
Courtney Spear 10	Rhett Ried 20	
Katelyn Curtis 11	Scott Plascencia 21	
Joyce McGhee 11	Audrey Schmidt 21	
Julie Bailey 12	Laura Hammes 22	
Jessica Lueder 13	Jennifer Morley 23	
Ruth McKean 13	Allison Dolton 24	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Karl & Carolyn Flamme 6/2/1962	Gary & Elaine Volker 6/18/1968
Jon & Cyndy Wulff 6/7/1970	Tim & Barb Monroe 6/20/1981
Peter & Barb Sweeney 6/8/1974	Terry & Jackie Roberts 6/25/1971
Ed and LeAnn Mize 6/10/1989	Ned & Chris Gottleber 6/26/1976
Jeff & Bonnie Lueder 6/11/1988	Adam & Amy Kelly 6/27/1998
Jack & Sharon Chamberlain 6/15/1974	Pastor Tom & Sara Vanderbilt 6/28/1997





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

JUNE 2016

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