



# *The Messiah* **Messenger**

March 2017

Published Monthly

## **GIVING IT UP**

“What are you giving up for Lent?” This is a question that I’ve heard echoing around all of Christendom each year. People will fill Facebook and Twitter with farewells on the day before Ash Wednesday. “So long, chocolate... I’ll miss you, soda pop... How will I live without McDonald’s?” Some will go for the big things: television, beer, and Facebook itself are all popular “fasts” in our time.

Most people see the fasting of Lent as giving up a good thing to remember the suffering and sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Putting these things down is meant to be akin to Jesus laying down His life for us so that we can pick them up again in Easter, just as Jesus took up His life again and was gloriously resurrected from the dead.

But doesn’t it seem just a bit shallow to equate the sweetness of chocolate to the sheer joy of the salvation that is given to us by Christ’s death and resurrection? What if we could give up something else... something more meaningful... something that would help us to be people of faith and joy? What if we gave up things that prepared us to be “Easter people,” that is, people who are renewed and brought back to life?

Let’s give it a try. This Lenten season our theme will be **Giving It Up** and we’ll focus on many things that Jesus wants us to give up as we prepare to be Easter people. Here’s what we’ll give up this year in Lent:

**Giving Up Control:** God wants us to deny ourselves and give him the final say when we are charting the course of our lives.

**Giving Up Expectations:** God doesn’t guarantee any future circumstances but He does guarantee to be with us no matter the circumstances.

**Giving Up Superiority:** If we let go of our status symbols and judgmental attitudes, we can hear Jesus’ call more clearly and respond more faithfully.

**Giving Up Skepticism:** There are some things that God wants to take on faith, even if we don’t understand how or why it’s true.

**Giving Up Our Lives:** We are used to thinking of life in terms of fixed beginnings and ends, but God has a larger vision of eternal life that begins here and now.

**Giving Up Popularity:** If we put our faith in the opinions of others, we will be disappointed. But if we put our trust in God’s unending love, we will never be disappointed.

May God bless us all as we begin our annual pilgrimage to the cross and empty tomb of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tom

**A NOTE FROM THE PLANNED GIVING BOARD**

The Planned Giving Board (PGB) held its first meeting for 2017 on February 13<sup>th</sup> and was presented with one grant request. In support of the Care Bag Service Project (aka "Blessing Bags") initiated by the Messiah Youth, a \$1,000.00 Grant was awarded to them for the purpose of buying food, simple hygiene items, basic first-aid supplies, water, socks and other personal care items included in the bags. The Youth plan to continue assembling the bags, maintaining a supply on hand and available to Messiah members to keep in their cars for gifting to the homeless and persons in need in our community.

Messiah's Endowment Fund is designed to provide long-lasting support in following Messiah's mission to "Seek the Lost, Grow the Found". Through the use of our grant process, distributions up to 10% of the year-end balance over the previous twelve months can be available for distribution from our endowment fund. This year the fund has approximately \$16,200.00 available for grant requests. The fund is in place to receive gifts and address a variety of future needs, beyond what our annual budget is designed to provide. If you have any questions regarding the Endowment Fund or how to donate, please see the Church Office or Erin House, PGB chair (emartens34@hotmail.com).

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**TAEKWONDO CLASSES AT MESSIAH**

TaeKwonDo classes are now forming to take place in the Messiah gym beginning the first week of April. The classes will be taught by Messiah member Jerry Koernke, a certified 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt instructor. Classes will be for juniors ages 8-12 and adults 13 and older. For further details, answer questions or make arrangements, contact Jerry personally at (517) 980-2783 or leave a message with your phone number in his mailbox in the narthex.

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**EASTER FLOWERS**

In partnership with the Holt Lions Club, orders for Easter Flowers are currently being taken through Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Order sheets and payment envelopes are on the Narthex table. All plants are \$10.00 each. Lilies, daffodils and yellow tulips will be used to decorate the altar area for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services. Red and pink tulips are also available. Plants can be taken home after late service Easter Sunday. Any plants remaining after late service Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be planted on Messiah property. Please place payment envelopes in Chris Gilliland's mailbox. Proceeds from sales are used by the Lions Club to support local community projects. Questions can be directed to Chris.



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.

## Upcoming Activities

Last month, our youth came together and planned activities for the rest of 2017.

Below are the upcoming activities in March.

### Head 2 Heart

*(program leading to confirmation for grades 6-8)*

- March 1 - No H2H Class
- March 8 - Regular Lesson (H2H)
- March 15 - Regular Lesson (H2H)
- March 22 - Regular Lesson (H2H)
- March 29 - Regular Lesson (H2H)

### All Youth

*(activities for fellowship & service for grades 6-12)*

- Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:45 am  
Youth Room
- March 12 - Movie Night - 5-7 pm  
Youth Room - Dinner Provided
- March 26 - Visit Great Lakes Christian Home - details to come

### In addition to the above activities, we have the following planned:

Stuffing & Hiding Eggs on Easter

Ice Cream & Game Night

District 5 Trampolines

Racking Leaves at Youth Haven

Youth Week in Iowa (High School Only)

Forts & Sorts (High School Only)

Animal Shelter Service Activity

Laser Tag

Lock-In

Pool Party

Cedar Point

Going to the Zoo

Day at the Park

STAY  
UPDATED  
-  
JOIN OUR  
FACEBOOK  
GROUP

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

**We are looking for adults to help plan these activities.**

If interested, talk with Sara Vanderbilt - 615-557-6792 or [sara.vanderbilt@hotmail.com](mailto:sara.vanderbilt@hotmail.com)





Once again this year Messiah will be hosting the Forts & Sorts Servant Event. This servant event brings high school youth from all around the country to Michigan to work at Youth Haven Ranch.

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



Participating youth spend a week working on various projects that improve the buildings and grounds of Youth Haven. Projects from 2016 included painting, removing weeds, cleaning out a trash pile, and creating a maze for the children to use.

**Dates**

- June 18-24

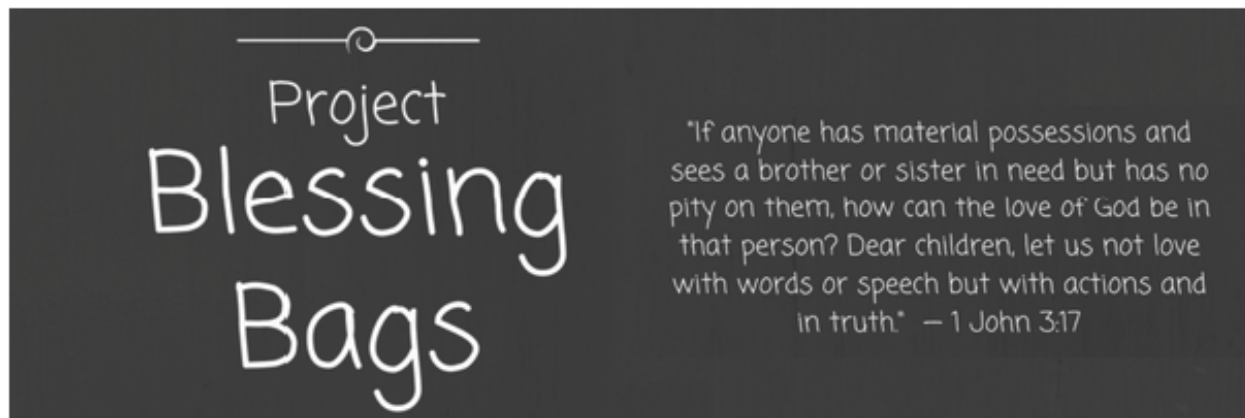
**How YOU can Help!**

- Pray for our event! As groups are deciding to attend Forts & Sorts - pray that God would lead them to our servant event.
- Pray for our leaders! Many of our Messiah members give of their time to direct the work and the youth that participate - pray that God would be preparing their hearts for this awesome project.
- Pray for the kids of Youth Haven Ranch! Many of the kids who experience Youth Haven Ranch don't know Jesus - pray that the Holy Spirit will be at work in them and their leaders.

Look for more ways to get involved in the coming months.

**If you know of High School Youth who want to attend this event, contact Sara Vanderbilt for information and registration material.**

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)).



*"We recently gave out two blessing bags. We felt a little nervous at first but felt happy and excited that we made a small impact on someone's life. She was really happy and appreciative of our gesture. We really enjoyed putting the bags together. The time we spend in class with our friends is awesome and the amount of stuff we had to work with was great. We are looking forward to continuing this ministry to members of our community. Thanks for all of your donations." — Tyler & Andrew Rutter (youth in our Head 2 Heart program)*

## JOINT High School Youth & Head 2 Heart SERVANT ACTIVITY

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.

**The bags are available on the shelves across from the bathrooms.**

**How can you help?** Donate any of the following

*(place donations in the blue 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:

Bandaids  
Chapsick  
Advil Packet  
Cough Drops  
Vitamin C Drink Additive  
Chewable multivitamins  
Hand warmers  
Hats  
Gloves  
Socks (warm ones)

### Hygiene Items:

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

# March 2017

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

	3/5/2017	3/12/2017	3/19/2017	3/26/2017
8:30 AM				
Elder	Ernie Schuette	Mark Reister	Scott Greene	Mike Wagner
Acolyte	Kenzie Greene	Mathias Nielsen	Andrew Rutter	Nathan Dolton
Reader	Janet Robson	Maggie Schultz	Diane Bennett	Ellen Biergans
Usher	Don Schneeberger	Don Schneeberger		Dave Biergans
Screens	Craig Cumbow	Meredith Foster	Sherri TerBush	Meredith Foster
Altar Guild	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3
11:00 AM				
Elder	Jerry Smith	Jeff Rutter	Jon Wulff	Tom Large
Acolyte	Carson Mills	Peyton Ried	Audrey Harmon	Blake Showers
Reader			JoEllen Miskowski	Jessica Bonkoski
Usher				
Screens				
Altar Guild	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3

	3/1/2017	3/8/2017	3/15/2017	3/22/2017	3/29/2017
7:00 PM					
Elder	Ernie Schuette	Ernie Schuette	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner
Reader	Janet Robson				
Screens	Sara Vanderbilt				
Altar Guild	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Melanie Alvord 4	Krista Ried 21
Carol Laur 4	Paige Meyer 22
Gabriella Gray 5	Sherrie Nunheimer 22
Andrienne Sandtveit 6	Christopher Winkel 22
Rick Stanley 6	James Curtis 23
Molly Noss 9	Edward Kodish 23
Tracy Rutter 11	Zachary Morley 25
Alexis Kelbert 12	Scott House 26
Sherri TerBush 13	Cyndy Wulff 26
Amy Cumbow 14	Llynn Wagner 27
Cheryl Haskell 15	Mark Reister 28
Bruce Schraft 16	Ella Wurzler 28
Kelsea Barcelow 17	Jackie Lack 30
Jessica Bonkoski 17	Eleanor Stanley 31
Rhonda Fleming 17	Sara Vanderbilt 31
David Wingert 18	

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Ray & Julie Bailey  
3/6/1971

Fred & Sondra Klepper  
3/15/1975

Jim & Lois Snover-Hanson  
3/27/1985





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

# MARCH 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		Ash Wednesday 1 7p Service	7p Elders Meeting GSR	4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
5	6	7	8 6:30p Head 2 Heart Youth Room 7p Lenten Service	9 6:30p Education AT Paul 7p Fellowship Paul	10 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	11 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
12 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	13 6:30p Planned Giving Board Paul	14	15 6:30p Head 2 Heart Youth Room 7p Lenten Service	16 7p Governance Board GSR	17 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	18
19 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	20	21	22 6:30p Head 2 Heart Youth Room 7p Lenten Service	23 7p Team Meeting GSR	24 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	25
26 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	27	28	29 6:30p Head 2 Heart Youth Room 7p Lenten Service	30	31 4:30p Fish Dinner Gym	



# Messiah Lutheran Church

5740 West Holt Road, Holt, MI 48842  
694-1280

## Friday Night **Fish Dinners** during Lent

4:30 – 7:00 pm

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 2017



**Prices: Adults/\$10.00 Seniors (60+)/\$9.00**

**Kids 5-10/\$5.00 Kids under 5/free in-house**

Menu includes: Fish (baked or fried), hot dogs, scalloped potatoes, macaroni & cheese, green beans, coleslaw, rolls & butter, homemade pies & other desserts, beverages: coffee or punch

*Take-out available.*

**Save a dollar when you buy a 2017 ticket for 6 nights, adults \$59.00 and seniors \$53.00**

*A majority of the profits will be donated to the Holt Community Food Bank and other local charitable organizations.*

