



The Messiah **Messenger**

November 2016

Published Monthly

The Harvest is Waiting

“Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’ Matthew 9:37-38, ESV

In the pre-dawn twilight, a farmer stood on his back porch with a steaming cup of coffee in his hand. He looked out over his fields with a sense of satisfaction. God had provided abundantly this year. Rain had come at just the right times; the long days of July had been filled with humidity; his crops had grown from fragile seedlings to strong green stalks filled with grain. Now, in the early days of October, those once-green plants were amber and ready to be harvested.

And the farmer was ready. His machinery was prepared and fully serviced. His silos were repainted and roomy with more than enough space for the grain that waited in the fields. His hired hands were skilled and able; they had been working on his farm for years. In those early morning moments, the farmer knew that he was ready for what lay before him.

All that he needed now was the grain to come in. So he stood there all day, looking over those fields and wondering: Where’s the grain? What was it going to take for the grain to come into his bins? Why wasn’t the grain harvesting itself?

Sounds ridiculous, doesn’t it? This is not how farming works. It’s not how the church works either, but we think it is. We spend countless hours maintaining our facility, ensuring that it’s welcoming and inviting. We do our best to make room for visitors and strangers who may join us for a Sunday morning. We make sure that all of our staff know what to do when the people finally come.

But do we ever go out into the field?

Because this is the month of Thanksgiving, a harvest-themed festival, I offer these simple steps to joining the Lord in His harvest.

Be in the field. Jesus said, “Pray to the Lord of the harvest to *send out* laborers into his harvest.” He didn’t ask for the grain to find its own way in from the harvest; he prays for laborers to go out into the harvest. It doesn’t make sense for a farmer to stand on his back porch and expect the grain to just show up. He has to go where the

grain is. The same is true for us as His Church. We need to go to where the grain is. Thankfully, most of us are already there because of where we work, where our children go to school, and where we spend our free time. There are people all around us who need the Good News.

Do the work (of an evangelist). Paul writes in 2 Timothy 4:5, "...do the work of an evangelist..." That means be a person with good news. As you are walking through your personal "fields" listen for a chance to share some good news. Give hope to people who feel hopeless. Try to bring joy to people who feel down-trodden. Do your best to love people who seem unloving or unlovable. Notice I say "do your best" because no one is perfect.

Give thanks to God. Regardless of the outcome, we give thanks to God that He has counted us worthy to take part in the harvest. He has sown; He has watered; He has grown. We are invited along with Him to harvest. Give thanks to God that He has used you in a particular place, at a particular time, to walk with a particular person. Whatever the outcome of that time will be is not up to you or to me but it is up to the Lord because it's *HIS* harvest.

Seeking and growing with you,

Pastor Tom

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2016

Pastor Vanderbilt and the Elders of Messiah Lutheran Church have set the schedule for Holiday Services this year. Here is the schedule:

Thanksgiving Eve services will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Advent Midweek services will be on Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, and December 14 at 7:00 p.m. The theme for these services will be "Family Life" as we examine some of the families mentioned in the Christmas story and their struggles and celebrations.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

We will celebrate one service on **Christmas Day**, Sunday, December 25. This will be a traditional service at 10:00 a.m.

We will also celebrate one service on **New Year's Day**, Sunday, January 1. This will be a contemporary service at 10:00 a.m.

We pray God's richest blessings on your journey to manger of Bethlehem this year.



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.

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



This is the program that leads to Confirmation and is open to any student in Grades 6-8. We hope that your students will join us for nights of fun, fellowship, and faith-building as we explore the Small Catechism together! If you need more information, please talk with Sara (615-557-6792 or sara.vanderbilt@hotmail.com).

Schedule-Wednesday's from 6:30 to 8:30pm in Youth Room

- November 2 - No class due to Service Activity on November 5 (see below)
- November 9 - Lesson
- November 16 - Lesson
- November 23 - No Class - Thanksgiving Break
- November 30 - Lesson

JOINT High School Youth & Head 2 Heart SERVANT ACTIVITY

Our November service activity will be helping out at Youth Haven Ranch by participating in their fall workday.

We will meet at church at 8 am and drive out together.

Lunch is included and we will meet back at church once we are done. Parents are welcome to join us.

Please let Sara know if your youth will be joining us.

When: Saturday, November 5

Time: 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Contact: Sara Vanderbilt

615-557-6792 or sara.vanderbilt@hotmail.com

Here are some more details...

- Wear clothes to work in
- Bring work gloves
- Bring a rake
- Bring a bottle of water

Join our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/youthatmessiah to stay current on all Youth at Messiah details

ACTION TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

The **Trustees** worked with a local Girl Scout troop in placing a bench on the Ram Trail at the head of the old driveway. They are considering the addition of a “Little Free Library” beside this bench. They are also continuing with a project to relocate the dumpster to Campus Drive on the west side of Messiah’s building, which should be completed this spring.

The **Early Childhood Ministry Team** worked with the staff of the MCDC to hold an open house on September 28. Parents and children were treated to cider and donuts and fruit in a time of gathering and fellowship.

The **Education Team** continues to do great work with Kingdom Quest and is planning for their Christmas Program on Dec. 18 at the 11:00 worship service.

The **Youth Team** has begun “Head 2 Heart” (H2H) on Wednesday nights. This is a ministry to 6-8th graders that leads to Confirmation. They also celebrated the confirmation of Zach Gietzel, Alina Powers, and Sydney Powers on Oct. 30.

The **Fellowship Team** had a busy October with a bonfire and hayride on Oct. 9, Euchre on Oct. 21, and a Trunk or Treat Potluck on Oct. 30.

EUCHRE NIGHT

The Fellowship team is having a Euchre night on November 4 at 7:00 p.m. Please bring \$1.00, a snack to share, and your own beverage. RSVP with Sharon Keller at 643-0667 or sign-up in the narthex.



TRUSTEE ACTION TEAM

The Trustee Action team ministry could best be described as, “Maintaining, protecting, and improving the quality of our Worship environment to better serve our congregation.” To that end, we have done; or are doing the following:

- We have replaced and moved lights in the parking lot. We have also converted the lights themselves to LED’s. Funding for this project was obtained through the Planned Giving Board
- We have repaired a light which was damaged when the second garage was built and subsequently converted that light to LED
- A church wide inventory was completed
- A task survey for the Elders was completed. This was done to better define responsibilities for the different action teams
- The ballasts in the sign in front were replaced. We are interested in replacing it at some time with an LED unit, as budgets permit.
- We are in the process of solidifying plans and bids for moving the dumpster pad. This must be done prior to any repair of the parking lot. We will look to the Planned Giving Board for possible funds for this project.
- We have completed numerous plumbing and electrical repair projects throughout the Church during the last year. Bulbs, batteries and filters are changed out on a regular basis.
- The gym floor was recently re-waxed. This was done to correct an issue that occurred when it was waxed earlier this year.
- The Infant room presents an issue in regards to our HVAC use and costs. Bids were recently obtained regarding a separate, small air-conditioning unit for that room. At issue is a thermostat in the room that controls the office and hallway area. In order for the Infant room to stay cool enough, the other areas are over-cooled. A fix would be its own air unit and moving the thermostat out of the room. We continue to look for cost effective solutions.
- We are have ongoing discussions regarding repaving our parking lot. This project is a topmost priority subject to funding and moving the dumpster pad.
- We have had discussions regarding the Church roof. Recent storm damage and leaks have been fixed, but we recognize that another large expense looms in the near future.
- The Church lawn mower was purchased in 2003. We would like to replace it while it holds some trade-in value.

Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule

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

November 2016

	11/6/2016	11/13/2016	11/20/2016	11/27/2016
8:30 AM				
Elder	Ned Gottlieber	Gene Wilson	Ernie Schuette	Mark Reister
Acolyte	Mathias Nielsen	Kenzie Greene	Nathan Dolton	Tyler Rutter
Reader	Ellen Biergans	Diane Bennett	Maggie Schultz	Janet Robson
Usher	Dave Biergans		0	0
Screens	Meredith Foster	Meredith Foster		0
Altar Guild	Team A4	Team A5		0
11:00 AM				
Elder	Mike Wagner	Jeff Rutter	Tom Large	Jerry Smith
Acolyte	Bethany Schlattman	Andrew Rutter	Lucas Nunn	Brett Showers
Reader	Jessica Bonkoski	Jessica Bonkoski	JoEllen Miskowski	
Usher	Ron Switzer		0	0
Screens		0		0
Altar Guild	Team A4	Alex Allen		Alex Allen
Worship Team		Team A5		
			0	0

	11/23/2016	11/30/2016
7:00 PM		
Elder	Tom Large	Mike Wagner
Reader	Janet Robson	
Screens		0
Altar Guild		0



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Chris Gilliland 1	Jamie Greenman 15
Pamela Burtovoy 2	Colleen McDonald 16
Leonard Lueder 4	Mary Lucas 17
Timothy Gietzel 5	Olivia Sandtveit 18
Kayla Stier 6	Dorothy Spear 18
Christi Lueder 9	Todd Pentecost 19
Katelyn Morris 10	Mary Pride 19
Sydney Powers 11	DeLynn Greenman 20
Cynthia Armstrong 12	Ben Nunn 20
LeAnn Mize 12	Jeffrey Lueder 22
Leslie Gifford 13	Dale Nunheimer 26
Scott-George Greene 14	Lucas Cascaddan 28
Melanie Cascaddan 15	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Marty & Molly Noss 11/2/1985	Rob & Jane Dolton 11/9/2002
Todd & Debbie Pentecost 11/3/1984	Richard & Nancy Jenkins 11/20/1976
Robin & Kristin Powers 11/7/1998	Luther & Barb Dickerson 11/25/1983





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NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	6p ECM Meeting Paul	7p Elders Meeting GSR	7p Euchre Night Gym	8a H2H Leaf Raking Youth Haven Ranch 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
6	7	6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir 7p Trustee AT Paul	6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	6:30p Education AT Paul 7p Fellowship Paul 7p Team Meeting GSR	11	12 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
13	14	6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR	7p Governing Board GSR	18	19 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship 12:45p Voters' Meeting	21	6:15p MC ² 6:30p Crossways 7p Choir	7p Thanksgiving Eve Service	Thanksgiving 24	25	26 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
20	28	29	30	Pastor's Vacation		
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	27	6:15p MC ² 7p Choir	7p Midweek Service			
Pastor's Vacation						