



The Messiah **Messenger**

September 2016

Published Monthly

Church Service

What comes to mind when you see the words “Church Service”? I’ll bet you imagine the inside of our Sanctuary at Messiah. You see the altar, the cross, and your family in Christ. You probably see “your pew,” the place where you have sat for years. You can hear the sound of familiar hymns or praises songs being sung. You can feel the padded seats and the warm hands sharing the peace in the middle of worship. All of these images center around one key activity: worship.

The German word coined by Luther and others for this is Gottesdienst and, literally translated, it means “Service of God.” Let us now ask that most Lutheran of questions: “What does this mean?” What does it mean when we talk about worship more accurately as the “Service of God?”

The most important way for us to think of it is as “God’s service to us.” God is the subject of the service; He’s the one doing the service. This is most important because this is where our relationship with God has always begun and will always begin. God served us by creating this world and all that is in it. He served the people of Israel as He parted the Red Sea for them to escape Pharaoh. He served us by taking on our human flesh and living the perfect sinless life that none of us could. He served us by dying on the cross for us. He continues to serve us through the words of Absolution, through the waters of Holy Baptism, and through the Real Presence of the Lord’s Supper. As we enter the Sanctuary for every worship service, our question should always be, “What does God want to do for me today? What gifts does He have to share?”

But there is another way to think about this phrase, “Service of God.” There is the sense where God is the object of the service, that is, He receives our service. There is certainly an element of this in our worship. We sing hymns and songs in praise to God, emulating the angels who constantly praise Him. We give offerings to Him so that He can continue to do His work of proclaiming the Gospel at Messiah and in our corner of the world. Most of our activities at Messiah are considered a service to Him: the ladies who prepare the altar for worship, the dedicated Kingdom Quest teachers, and the ones who faithfully mow the lawn. All of these may be considered serving God in this place. These are all good, worthy and important things. I’m not diminishing them with what I’m about to say next. But this is not where God asks us to serve.

When Jesus sums up the Law of God, His divine will, He says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40) If we ask ourselves "What does God want to give to me today?" as we walk in the Sanctuary, then the question that we must ask ourselves as we walk out is this: "With whom does God want me to share these good gifts?" This is what it means for us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We give them the same things that we cherish about our Divine Service. To love our neighbors as ourselves goes hand-in-hand with the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. The same forgiveness that we have received is what we use to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is how the Church truly serves her Lord. This is also the Service of God.

Which leads us to a whole new concept of "Church Service." It's not just the hour-or-so that is spent on Sunday morning at 5740 Holt Road in Holt. It's taking the good gifts that we have received at that place and using those gifts of God to define how we interact with our neighbors. It's forgiving them, just as we have been forgiven by the Father through Christ Jesus. It's valuing them, just as we are valued by the Father because of Christ Jesus. It's loving them, just as we are loved by the Father because of Christ Jesus. This is how the Church serves the world. May She always serve this way!

MESSIAH'S CHOIRS

Both the adult choir and MC2 will begin rehearsals on October 4th. If you wish to join either one, this is a great time start.

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

CROSSWAYS GRADUATES

In September, the current Crossways class will be studying the prophets and the post-exile period. If anyone is interested in reviewing these units or joining the class for the rest of the course, there is room for you. Anyone who has taken the course anytime or anywhere can join us anytime. Call Cyndy Wulff at 646-8891.

YOUTH HAVEN HAYRIDE AND BONFIRE

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m. Hotdogs, s'mores and drinks will be supplied by the Fellowship team. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



KINGDOM QUEST FALL KICK-OFF

September 11 at 9:45 a.m. will be the Fall kick off for Kingdom Quest. We will be gathering in the gym. If you haven't registered your children, you may want to arrive a little early. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

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

September 2016

	9/4/2016	9/11/2016	9/18/2016	9/25/2016
8:30 AM				
Elder	Ned Gottleber	Mike Wagner	Mark Reister	Jeff Rutter
Acolyte		0 Kenzie Greene		0 Kenzie Greene
Reader	Janet Robson	Ellen Biergans	Diane Bennett	Maggie Schultz
Usher	Don Schneeberger	Dave Biergans	Don Schneeberger	0
Screens	Meredith Foster	Sherri TerBush	Craig Cumbow	Meredith Foster
Altar Guild	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2
11:00 AM				
Elder	Jon Wulff	Tom Large	Jerry Smith	Jerry Smith
Acolyte		0 Tyler Rutter	Audrey Harmon	0
Reader		0 Jessica Bonkoski	Jessica Bonkoski	JoEllen Miskowski
Usher		0 Alex Allen	Dale Nunheimer	Ron Switzer
Screens		0		0
Altar Guild	Team A3	Team A4	Team A5	Team A2



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Autumn Baughman 1	Kristin Powers 17
Zachary Gietzel 1	Deanne Smith 17
Erica Nowland 2	William Schellhammer 19
Sharon Keller 5	Grace Nunn 20
Alfred Stuewe 6	Kayla-Jean Young 21
Cheryl Schlattman 7	Lukas Barcelow 22
Carlene Kundrock 8	Faith Kopper 22
Timothy Monroe 11	Jerry Ericks 23
Linda Dolton 13	John Smith 26
Thomas Stuewe 13	Josephine Cumbow 29
Peggy Andrews 14	William Lack 29
William Wilson 15	Sandy Russell 29
James Andrews 16	Jacob Spear 29
Jeffrey Rutter 16	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Bill & Leslie Soule
9/2/1978

Mike & Lynn Wagner
9/23/1978

Tony & Pam Burtovoy
9/14/1968

Nathan & Kelly Hude
9/29

Mike & Carol Laur
9/16/1978

Scott & Angie Greene
9/30/2000

Rhett & Krista Ried
9/23/1995





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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	5	6	7	8 7p Elders Meeting GSR 7p Fellowship Paul	9	10 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
11 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	12 7p Trustee AT Paul	13	14	15 7p Team Meeting GSR	16	17 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
18 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	19	20	21	22 7p Governing Board GSR	23	24 9:30a First Place 4 Health GSR
25 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship	26	27	28	29	30	