

March 2018 Edition

The Messiah Messenger

Newsletter of
The Lutheran Church of the Messiah



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The Reverend Thomas R. Mason

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Face book: www.facebook/LutheranChurchoftheMessiah.com

Sunday Worship Services: 8:15am & 10:00am

*Sunday School : 9:00am 2nd Sunday in
September to third Sunday in May (Dates can vary)*

*Adult Bible Class: 9:00am 2nd Sunday in
September to third Sunday in May (Dates can vary)*

**PreK School Director: Rose Aloian 791-1046
Assistant Teacher Brandi Krassopoulos**

**Sunday School Superintendent &
Christian Education: Jackie Sutherland**

From Your Pastor

Christ's Incarnation in us

Just about two months ago, we were celebrating the Feast of **Christmas** and now here we are at the forty day journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter. What possible reason could I have for bringing up the joyous celebration of Christmas on this day of fasting and repentance.

On Christmas, we celebrated the birthday of our Lord and, just as on any birthday when we give **gifts** to the one whose birthday it is, so we should have given him gifts. But what possible gift could we give to the one who has created everything around us? It is the one thing which we have the power to withhold from him? So what is it? **Joel** tells us that the Lord has said "Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning". The **psalmist** tells us to pray these words: "A clean heart create for me, O God". And in the gospel, **Jesus** tells his disciples to be on guard lest they perform acts of penitence only to gain the approval of others. He is telling them, and us, that what is important lies within.

So what did Christ want as a Christmas gift? The same thing he wants from us in today's readings: our hearts. God gave them to each of us and all he asks is that we freely give them back to him. But he doesn't want a heart that is sinful; he needs a heart that recognizes that its sin is a problem and which is willing to change. This change of heart is what is meant by the word repentance. Repentance means more than just being sorry for past sins.

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It entails a willingness to change our behavior in order to avoid sin in the future. In essence, what we need is an **incarnation**. We have to let Christ assume human form in us, just as he assumed human flesh in his own incarnation. And if we let Christ into our hearts, we might be amazed at the transformation that will occur in our lives. Let us be transformed.

From The Treasurer: "Count our Blessings"		
Receipts	February 4, 2018	\$1,990.00
	February 11, 2018	\$ 4,598.42
	February 18, 2018	\$2,232.00
	February 25, 2018	\$1,539.00

If you would like to make a donation on line you may do so through a PayPal link on our website. www.messiahlewiston.org. Thank you.

Requirements to make plan = \$3,625.00
Weekly.
Barb Bunce
Treasurer



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Calendar of Events for 2018

March 1	9am Newsletter workgroup
March 3	10am Choraleers Practice
March 4	3rd Sunday in Lent Holy Communion 915am New Member Meeting
March 6	615pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service (Mike Duckett)
March 7	545pm Girls Scout Troops 615pm Girls Scout Troops
March 8	830am Messiah Work Group
March 10	10am Choraleers Practice
March 11	4th Sunday in Lent 6pm Lew-Port Youth Football
March 13	615pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service (Barb Bunce or Kathy Harold)
March 14	545pm Girls Scout Troops 615pm Girls Scout Troops
March 17	10am Choraleers Practice
March 18	5th Sunday in Lent Holy Communion
March 20	615pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service (Sue Smith)
March 21	545pm Girls Scout Troops 615pm Girls Scout Troops
March 22	830am Messiah Work Group 7pm Historical Society Meeting
March 24	2pm-4pm Parish Hall Reserved
March 25	Palm Sunday Distribution of Palms Easter Egg Hunt 2pm Choraleers Concert
March 28	545pm Girls Scout Troops 615pm Girls Scout Troops
March 29	Maundy Thursday 330pm Easter Food Basket Pick up
March 30	Good Friday

Happy Anniversary

03-14-08	Ted & Barb Bunce
03-28-10	Nicole & Kyle Faulkner
03-30-84	Terry & Jeanette Collesano

Happy Birthday

03-03	Stephanie Myers
03-03	Patricia Nashwinter
03-03	Kyle Nablo
03-04	Bill Baum
03-05	Richard Amantia
03-06	Pastor Tom Mason
03-11	Glenn Carroll
03-12	Samantha Shumaker
03-14	Fannie Supple
03-15	Ashley Proietti
03-16	Judith Ann Spira
03-19	Jennifer Stachowski
03-21	Jackie Sutherland
03-22	Joan Waterstrat
03-24	Autumn Ashley
03-24	Jeffrey Perry
03-24	Julie Smithson
03-26	Randy Bennion
03-26	Natalie Payne
03-26	Betty Zucco
03-27	Terry Collesano
03-27	Michael Hanrahan
03-28	Donna West
03-29	Gretchen Morgan
03-29	Stephen Perri
03-29	Helen Rengstorf
03-30	Gloria Montondo



Christian Education Winter 2017

We began our study of Ruth in late February. After viewing the animated film “The Story of Ruth”, we discussed Ruth’s relationship with Naomi and Boaz, learning how Ruth’s faith led her to a good life, after difficult times.

After some discussion, and the advice of Mrs. Balcom, (a Care and Share volunteer), we decided to support our local food pantry. “Care and Share” Food pantry is located in Ransomville. This pantry serves our surrounding communities. They are in need of canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauce, cereal, full size toiletries, canned soups, etc. Most any non-perishable item will be welcomed. We will have a large bucket in our large Sunday School room for weekly collections. This will be an on-going program, supporting our local food pantry throughout the year. We hope to work in a field trip to the pantry one day when the students are off school.

Please don’t forget our annual Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for March 25th, Palm Sunday. It will depend on the weather as to an inside or outside hunt. There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on EASTER SUNDAY, April 1st. We will resume our classes on April 8th!

As we have entered into the Lenten season, our Sunday School activities will lead us up to the Resurrection. We will review the events of Holy Week and see what the children recall from last year’s study. This will provide material for dinner table chats with you children!

Sunday School Superintendent
Jackie Sutherland 754-7324



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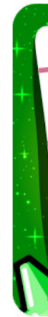
Pre School News

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the LCW, for their very generous donation to help us extend our baking and science center! We are so excited to get our new items. Also we would like to thank Mr. Colin Smith, for his kind and generous donation to our school, in honor of his birthday! It is so amazing to have such wonderful support!! Preschool is moving faster than ever! We have had a high volume of calls inquiring about next falls program. Currently we have a 100% return rate for our current young students. We have had several new students register already too, making our class for next year practically full already! We are anxiously awaiting spring. We miss our outdoor time at preschool. We are hoping to hear soon what types of items we can add to our yard for even more fun outside time!

We have been very busy learning the remaining letters and sounds of our alphabet. With Valentine's day right around the corner we are planning another fun celebration, where our grown ups are able to come in a help us make beautiful and tasty creations. We are so proud and impressed with how much our class is learning. Everyday impressing us with their skills!

In Christian love,
Rose Aloian &
Brandi Krassopoulos

"We are like a box of crayons, each one of us is unique. And when we get together our classroom is complete." unknown



News from the Synod

Bishop's Convocation - "Wonder" -Land

presented by Rev. Lori Kochanski, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation. March 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 630 French Road, New Hartford, NY. Register now. Cost is \$15.00 including lunch.

Schedule for the day:

Registration 9:30

Worship 10:00

Session One 10:30

Lunch 12

Session 2 12:30

Closing Prayer and Sending 2:00



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Save these Dates

2018 Synod Ministerium at Notre Dame Retreat House.
September 17-19, 2018
Registration opens June 1.

Bishop's Macholz's Annual Golf Outing

August 20, 2018 at at Shadow Lake Golf and Racquet Club in Penfield, NY.
Registration opens June 1.

International Women's Day

Every year on March 8, people around the world commemorate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements throughout history and across nations. On this day, members of the ELCA celebrate by supporting and lifting up the International Women Leaders initiative. Read about this and more at Global Links.

Messiah's Advertising Board

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<p>Hearing Aids & Audiological Services Jill G. Mazur: The Hearing Aid Center 549 Fourth St., NF, NY T: 282-4130</p>
<p>Hunt Real Estate ERA Barbara Anne Kivi, Associate Broker 479 Center St., Lewiston, NY T: 799-4765 Free Est. appraisal for all Messiah Lutheran members</p>
<p>Ole Time Barber Shop Terry & Chris Collesano Luxury At It's Best, Stylish Haircuts 478 Center St., Lewiston NY T: 807-9769</p>
<p>Payne's Carpet Outlet Family owned & Operated, Free Est. Jonathan Payne-VP 2406 Military Ro., NF, NY T: 298-0455 F: 298-0457</p>
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Roger Alexis Sybil Balcom Barbara Bunce Connor Bills	Carter Lord Charles McElhinney Ronald Muckley
Jillian Boyer Joe Crano	Charlotte Perri Phyllis Peters Ruth Prindle
Fran DiLaura Aviya Di Stefano Jessica Dobbertean Erin Deering	Pete Sherman Rose Simone Sandra Stevens
Lois Gleason Jeff & Diane Harold Mary Hartman Bob Jordan Harry Lehman	Julie Tarnowski Jean Walck Winifred Walton Joan Wykrant Carol Zimmerman



Don't forget to contact the church office when a loved one is ill, injured or hospitalized.

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Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild Meetings
Consider joining the Guild and support The GreenFields Continuing Care Community and the Niagara Lutheran Health System. Membership is open to all! Dues are only \$5 a year, and benefits include a monthly newsletter and meetings featuring great food, guest speakers, and entertainment. There are also various volunteer opportunities available. To learn more, contact Judy Hardie at (716) 681-8296 or go online at www.niagaralutheran.org/nlhs-guild.

Thursday, March 15 11:30 AM

GreenField Manor Aud
5953 Broadway – Lancaster, NY 14086
Program: The Ladies First Quartet A cappella group
Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM,
followed by lunch at 12:00 PM.

*Please make reservations for lunch to Sally Gollman at 836-1528 by March 8th

Open House

Please join us at our Open House on Wednesday, March 21st from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
Come and take a tour of our lovely residential apartments at GreenField Manor and the assisted living apartments at the GreenField Court, located at 5953 Broadway in Lancaster.
Visit us and discover why Life is Beautiful at The GreenFields.
Call (716) 684-8400 for more information.

Important Message from Church Office:

Dear fellow congregation members,

We, the congregation of Messiah Lutheran, are starting the process to select a new pastor, which will lead us into the future as we continue with God's message. This process may take many months and be very time consuming because we must gather input from everyone.

Many of us have been through the process of selecting a new pastor before, but like everything else, the process has changed over time. I am writing this letter to solicit your help with compiling the necessary information.

The first step in this process is to file what the Synod calls a "Ministry Site Profile" (MSP). The MSP will define the congregation as a whole. It will explain our needs, where would we like to go, and what we would like to become. Not only does the MSP describe our congregation, it also describes the community that we serve and how we fit in it. This is an opportunity for us to show Synod what we have to offer each other within our congregation and within our community. Therefore, it is important that we get everyone's input so that we have a complete profile of our congregation. We need everyone's cooperation with this task.

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Once we have received input from everyone in the congregation, I will ask members of the congregation for assistance with compiling the data. Volunteers are welcome. Then the MSP will be presented to our church council. After, council has reviewed the MSP, it will be forwarded to Synod.

After this information is sent to Synod, a "Call Committee" will be formed to interview pastoral candidates. The MSP is used by Synod to screen appropriate pastoral candidates for our congregation. This process could easily take a year, so we need to start as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you. Remember, we need everyone's input to have a successful Call Committee process.

Thank You
Ted Bunce

Welcome to Spring Fashion Show
Sunday, April 15, 2018
Doors open at 12:15pm
Basket Tickets & 50/50 will be available at this time.

Luncheon catered & Served at 1:00pm
Fashion Show at 2:00pm with Fashions by:



Tickets available through the church office
716-754-4944, Cathy Bennion 754-7747 &
Nancy D'Arcangelo. Donation \$20
Limit of 140

Baskets by: Kathy Harold

Chairperson: Joan Spira

Sponsored by LCW



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Important Updates

May 6, 2018, Sunday at 5:00pm Thank you dinner hosted by The Spira's.
More details to follow

Pastor will be out of the office May 4-6th please make a note.

Pre School graduation will be held June 6, 2018 in the Parish hall more details to follow.

Gina Lachick will be out of the office April 2-5 for Spring Break. Please make a note.

Please remember to bring in a non-perishable item for the food donation basket Easter is right around the corner.

Flower Envelopes are still available for orders \$7.50. Flowers are available for pick on Easter Sunday.