



Messiah Lutheran Church Newsletter

1470 W. Maplehurst * Roscommon, Michigan * 989-275-8820 * January * 2018
Email: messiah.roscommon@gmail.com + follow us on the Messiah Group- Facebook page
Website: <http://www.messiahlutheranelca.com> Check out our new website. ☺

We remember in our prayers; Jeff, Joe, Aunt Linda, Thela, Betty, Cathy, Jim, Leona Busch, Tim, Lois, Gene, Kim, David, Adeline, Piper, Crystal, Sally, Bill, JoAnn Kosick, Mel, Lou, Stan, Dan, Sue, Don, Jackie, Gail, Jean, Robin Ahern, Kim Brewer, Nancy Balla, Nichole, Skylar Rhode, family of Betty Alstead, Rob, John Lancaster, Kyle Parr, Dottie, Glad Bahr, Edward Vergeldt, JoAnn Carlson, Randi, Luke, Patsy, and Al & Ann Jordan.

Our church leaders: Bishops Elizabeth A. Eaton and Craig Alan Satterlee.

...those in the armed forces, who have served and those currently serving: Nick Anderson, David Cooper; Cole Daniels; Tara Goodell; Erik Mathenia; Ian, Matt and Amy McKenna; Richard McManamon; Peter McWilliam; Ryan Schiffner, Lee Schmidt, Nate Walker, Stephanie & Michael Ysebaert, Don & Dan Sulhoff, and for the safe and resolute return of all our nation's POW/MIAs.

Worship – 9:30AM Sundays. One service only.
Worship at the Brook – 2:00 pm 1st Sunday of the Month
ADULT Bible Study – No Bible Study until further notice
Choir Rehearsal –8:30 AM on Sunday morning.
Sunday school –Children's Bulletins will be available for the kids to work on while sitting with their parents during worship service.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ed Pearen	President/Council	821-9649
Ann Jordan	Vice Pres./Council	281-1180
Joan Jaguszewski	Sec./WELCA/Council	389-4004
Jim Heinlein	Treasurer	348-4350
Debbie Brooks	Publicity/Council	390-2167
Jim Lippert	Council-Stewardship Preschool Liaison	821-9263
David Osim	Council	275-5397
Ric Falardeau	MELCA Rep/Council	821-9561
Ron Anderson	Council	352-816-3920
Carol Lee Anderson	Council	352-816-3920
Terry Sanders	Council	821-1177
Marilyn Stuart	Council	821-9312
Dianne Sanders	Council	821-1177



Service Information for January

We offer (1) service on Sunday at 9:30AM.

Choir practice is at 8:30AM.

Pastor Gary Grieger will be leading us in worship through January. He will be taking February and March off, but has decided to return to Messiah starting the 2nd Sunday in April. He will not preach every Sunday. On the Sunday's he is off, a member of Messiah will lead worship. Jim Krauss will be returning in May and will join the group of Messiah members that have been leading worship. There will not be communion on the Sundays Pastor Gary is off.



Keep checking the information table, your emails, and the weekly bulletins for new business or updates.

Reminder-if the office doesn't have your email we can't share the special messages coming from the office concerning members, events, and service changes. ☺

Check us out on Facebook.☺

We also have a new website at; messiahlutheranelca.com

MESSAGES FOR JANUARY

January 7, 2018-BAPTISM OF OUR LORD-Always a New Beginning

Sometimes life feels like a dead end. We get stuck. Bad things happen and things don't get better. Long awaited change seems like it will never come. What do we do when life feels like a dead end?

The story of Jesus' baptism in Mark is about a radically new beginning. Mark describes the baptism like this: "And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him" (Mark 1:10). All the signs are there, telling us that whatever dead end the world has hit, Jesus is a new beginning.

In Genesis 1 we read that the Spirit moves to form the new creation, and a dome is placed over the newly created land, with water above and below it. Later, in Genesis 7, we read that the flood comes when windows in the dome are opened and water pours in from above and below. In both stories, a new creation is formed out of the old through water and Spirit. Now in Mark we hear again that the heavens are opened, and there is water, and there is Spirit pouring out. In Jesus' baptism, God is creating again. Jesus is God's new beginning for all who face dead ends.

Today is a day to remember your baptism, and to do so along with all your brothers and sisters gathered around font, word, and table. This is a day to give thanks that in Jesus God created a new beginning for all persons, all humanity, and all creation, a fresh start poured out of the open windows of God's loving heart. Today is a day to contemplate all the ways we face dead ends in life, even in death itself. Today we remember that God's Spirit creates us anew out of God's free flowing grace in the new life that is Jesus Christ.

January 14, 2018-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY-One Degree of Connection

A modern theory proposes that every person is separated from every other person by at most six degrees (six connecting relationships). Pick any person in the world and they will know someone who knows someone who knows someone who knows you. When we meet strangers, we often don't realize how closely connected we are until we share our stories.

In today's gospel story, Philip is first connected to Jesus by being from the same town as Andrew and Peter. But then Jesus calls him to follow, and Philip is in a direct relationship with Jesus. He went from two degrees of separation to one degree of connection. Philip tells Nathanael that Jesus is the one spoken of in Moses and the prophets. At first Nathanael doubts Jesus can measure up, since Jesus is from a small town of no importance. Nathanael is still two degrees away from Jesus.

Then Nathanael meets Jesus in person, and it changes everything. Instead of Nathanael getting to know Jesus, he discovers that Jesus already knows him. Nathanael's doubt about Jesus turns into astounding trust. Nathanael learns that even when he was two or more degrees separated from Jesus, Jesus was already directly connected to him.

Like Philip, the church shares the good news of Jesus with those who are near to us, friends, neighbors, and strangers. We say to others, "Come and see." When we invite people to learn about Jesus, we are inviting them to a great surprise: No matter how separated they may feel from Jesus because of time, relationship, or doubt, Jesus already knows them and loves them. God already knows them and accepts them. The good news of Christ is that we are all only one degree, one relationship away from God, and that relationship is Jesus himself, who has already befriended us on God's behalf.

January 21, 2018-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY-Doing What You Do

Jesus' first disciples were fishermen. We learn that James's and John's father was a fisherman who passed on his trade to his sons. They worked hard, developed their skills, and earned a living doing what they did. Presumably they did it well. It was good and valuable work. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were all being who they were and doing what they did when Jesus called them.

Look at how Jesus frames his call to these fishermen: "I will make you fish for people" (Mark 1:17). Jesus is telling them he can take who they are and what they do and use it for God's kingdom. It might sound like the disciples dropped their nets and left their fishing vocation completely; but throughout the gospel story we hear about Jesus and the disciples getting into boats. Who else but fishermen would have boats? How else did they continue to support their ministry and feed their families? Fishermen fish, but now the disciples do it for a higher purpose.

Rather than imagine that we are called to some life completely different from the one we live now, imagine that we are called to do what we do already in ways that show and enact God's kingdom. You're a fisherman, so fish for people. You're a singer, so sing for people. You're a seamstress, so sew for people. You're an engineer, so engineer for people. You're an investor, so invest for people. It's all about being who we are and doing what we do for a higher purpose.

The kingdom of God is about grace, love, justice, and mercy for all people. Through the grace of baptism, God has called us to follow Jesus in the way of the kingdom. How can you do what you do already, be who you are, in ways that help people know God and live life fully? Do what you do for God's sake, for your neighbor, for people.

January 28, 2018-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY-Astounding Authority

"They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Mark 1:22). Why is Jesus' authority so astounding? What makes Jesus' way of teaching and healing so astonishing? Apparently, the scribes did not speak with or embody authority. They interpreted what ancient texts said. They did not open up new possibilities. They were powerless to create new life for people.

Jesus' authority is about his power to open up new possibilities, to create new life for people. Jesus shows his authority to forgive sins and cast out demons. Rather than repeat worn out religious clichés and give easy answers to people's questions, he spoke words that transformed. He brought healing that restored life. Throughout the first half of Mark's gospel, Jesus' authority amazes people. At the same time, it is questioned and challenged by those who fear him, those invested in the old ways of teaching and preaching that do not bring life and healing.

Later in Mark's gospel, Jesus does something else astounding: he grants authority to his disciples to do the same as he is doing. He sends them out to heal, forgive, and set free. He sends them out to astound people with the authority of God to author a new reality in their lives through grace and love.

How do we respond to Jesus' authority? Do we welcome the new chapters of life he authors for us and for the world? Are we rightly astounded at how he forgives our sins and heals our diseases? If we are open to his authority, his power to transform our lives, then we, like the disciples, can also be open to the authority he gives the church to do the same things for others: forgive, heal, transform, renew. Who can you astound today with the love and grace of God?

JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 1PM WELCA	5	6
7 Noisy Offering & Food Pantry Collection 2PM-Worship at the Brook	8	9 10AM-CutUps Quilting Group	10	11	12	13
14	15 6PM-Worship Life 7PM-Council Meeting	16	17 No Com. Dinner In January	18	19	20
21	22	23 10AM-CutUps Quilting Group	24	24	26	27 FOOD TRUCK LOCATION BUS GARAGE
28	29	30	31			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND</p> </div>						

January-2018	WORSHIP ASST.	January Reminders
January 7	9:30AM	During the winter months it becomes more
READER	RON ANDERSON	difficult to fill this schedule, due to so many
USHERS	BILL & VARLYA HANUSIK	members heading south for the winter
COM. ASST.	RED BRUNKE & GARY GRAY	months.
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Bulletins will be provided to work on at the pew every Sunday.	I apologize for having to put the same people on more often during this time.
WORSHIP ASST.	JUDY LEGG	If anyone has not been scheduled and wishes to fill an assisting position, please drop me a note, send me an email, or call me.
January 14	9:30AM	I thank you all in advance for your understanding. Cory
READER	RED BRUNKE	
USHERS	TERRY & DIANNE SANDERS	
COM. ASST.	MARGARET K. & MARYANN P.	
PASTOR'S ASST.	RON ANDERSON	
January 21	9:30AM	
READER	RIC FALARDEAU	
USHERS	JAN & EMIL MEISSNER	
COM. ASST.	JOAN J. & CORY R.	
PASTOR'S ASST.	CORY REINHOLZ	
January 28	9:30AM	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
READER	ANN JORDAN	IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE
USHERS	HAROLD & LADONNA KRAMM	PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.
COM. ASST.	RUTH C. & ANN JORDAN	WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE FUTURE
WORSHIP LEADER	DAVID OSIM	OF MESSIAH
<u>COUNTERS</u> JANUARY JAN & EMIL MEISSNER	<u>COUNTERS</u> VOLUNTEERS FOR COUNTERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COUNT THE OFFERINGS COLLECTED ON SUNDAYS.	<u>ALTAR CARE</u> JANUARY- PAM OSTLING

Messiah Lutheran Church

1470 W. Maplehurst Dr.
Roscommon, MI 48653-9606
messiah.roscommon@gmail.com
<http://messiahlutheranelca.com>
(989) 275-8820



Pray for each other....

01/07---01/13

Joe Spicuzza

Kitty & Gene Stiefelmayer

01/14---01/20

Ernie & Marilyn Stuart

Cindy & Bill Wachowiak

01/21---01/27

Alton Westover

Wendy, Ron, Drew, & Rachel Wiltse

01/28---02/03

Leonard & Marian Yenglin

Bob & Mary Lu Boettger

January Anniversaries

23* Harold & LaDonna Kramm

January Birthdays

5* Trisha Jones

11* Cindy Wachowiak

14* Valarie Doebler

19* Jan Meissner

22* Tim Reinholz

25* Cory Reinholz

25* Shirley Reilly

26* Mary Rach

27* Mason Waterman

28* Drew Wiltse

28* Pat Scheel

29* Norm Liebeck