



# Messiah Lutheran Church Newsletter

1470 W. Maplehurst \* Roscommon, Michigan \* 989-275-8820 \* May \* 2018  
Email: [messiah.roscommon@gmail.com](mailto: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, Thela, Betty, Cathy, Leona, Tim, Lois, Kim, Larry, Adeline, Piper, Tom, Joyce, Sally, Bill, Mel, Lou & JoAnn, Stan, Jane, Sue, Don, Jackie, Gail, Jean, Robin, Nancy, Crystal, Rob, Skylar Rhode, John Lancaster, Laurel & Don, Ralph & Laurie, Bunny, Jan, Ann, Katie Murray & family, Harold & LaDonna, Bruce & Pat, Kenzie, Austin, Mary A. Krauss-Jim's mom, and Earl & Jennifer.

**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, Tristan Bunch, Andrew Kurek, Mark Bunch, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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	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 May

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

Choir practice is at 8:30AM.

Pastor Lonnie Wilkerson will continue leading us in worship.

He is also available for phone calls, private church meetings at Messiah, home visits if requested, and hospital visits.

Contact information:  
Cell-641-220-3691  
Home-989-281-1295  
Email-lwilkerson@pastorsoapbox.org



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](http://messiahlutheranelca.com)

What does it look like to abide? Abiding means remaining, staying, dwelling. Abiding might look like living in the same community for decades and being deeply rooted in its common life and mission. It could look like a long friendship or marriage in which two people continue to walk together through all that comes in life. It may look like the strong and enduring love a parent has for a child. What does abiding look like to you?

Today as you hear Jesus' words, "abide in my love," consider that image of a parent's love for a child. In the gospel Jesus refers to God as "Father," and today's reading from 1 John uses parental language to speak about Jesus' and our relationship with God. Imagine God as a father stretching out his arms to us, or a mother welcoming us into her embrace. "Climb on in. Abide here. Let my love surround you on all sides. Let it nourish you and warm you. Let your heart beat right alongside mine."

This is indeed what God says to us in baptism. Baptism is the moment when we are born of God, and so it is only natural that this God's arms should scoop us up, giving us a place to dwell, to abide, forever.

If this description of abiding feels too passive for those who are called in baptism to bear "God's creative and redeeming word to all the world" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231), consider this: if you are tucked into God's embrace, you are not going to live a stationary life. You will go where God goes, to the people God serves, to the banged up and brokenhearted. You will move as God moves and go where God goes.

You have been born anew. Now nestle into God's embrace.

We pray in the last petition of the Kyrie, "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord."

Can you think of a time you tried to help, save, or defend yourself or someone else? Or a time you comforted yourself or someone else? What did you do? Sometimes we are successful in our efforts to help, save, comfort, and defend. We provide monetary or emotional support. We speak up and act when we see injustice. We accompany people who are hurting. We practice self-care.

But other times we remain passive in the face of injustice because it is safer or easier to do nothing. Or we actively avoid conflict even when doing so creates more problems. We self-medicate in ways that harm us. We despair that whatever is wrong in our lives will never get better, so we give up and retreat from the world and its realities.

We pray "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord" because we know the truth: we are afraid, we fail, and need God's help. Today, Jesus prays for our protection. He does not pray that we be taken out of the world, but that we be fully present to its difficult and painful realities. It is Jesus' prayer that we be able to engage the dangers of this world, wholeheartedly entrusting our protection to God.

Our work is to lean into Jesus' prayer that God would protect us while we are in this world so that we might engage it fully, unafraid and free. Living and loving under the promise of this protection and care, our joy is complete.

For some women the most painful and difficult point in the process of giving birth is near the end of active labor, just before it is time to push. It is the point at which many women think they cannot bear the labor any longer. This phase is commonly called the *transition*.

Today Jesus announces that he is going away, and the community of disciples knows that things will not be the same moving forward. Jesus will no longer be with the disciples, but he will send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to join them. The disciples cannot bear it. It's a time of transition.

Between the community of disciples in John's gospel and the swarming crowds at Pentecost in the reading from Acts, we see the fullness of this transition. In the gospel we see the disciples devastated and sorrowful, unsure if they want to continue on without Jesus. Then we jump to the astonishment of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God rushes in like a mighty wind, making them drunk with joy. On the day of Pentecost there was no doubt that a page had turned and a new beginning had come to those followers of Jesus. We see the leap that is made from fear to freedom, from pain and loss to birth and life.

What is transitioning in your life? In your community? What familiar things are passing away and what new thing is God about to blow into your midst?

Transition almost always comes with pain and risk. Our hope is that the moment we do not think we can bear it any longer is precisely the moment that new life is taking hold. Do not be afraid of that which you cannot bear. It is a sign of the new thing the Spirit is bringing to birth!

**At the airport the young man's father and mother hugged him, stamped unremovable kisses on his unshaven cheek, draped "I love you" eyes upon him, mouthed "be safe" and sent him off to volunteer in Argentina, where he later disappeared. Did he perish?**

**Earth trembles, wind howls, fire refines. Do we perish? Famines devour by day, plagues creep by night, wars shriek. Do we perish?**

**"For God so loved the world . . .**

**Shamefaced in prisons, shivering on street corners, lonely in crowds, invaded all alone. Do we perish? At the top, exhausted; at the bottom, despairing; at the edges, ignored; at the center, shrinking. Do we perish?**

**. . . that he gave his only Son, . . .**

**Washed out memories, built up distances. Do we perish? Love discarded, hatred hoarded. Do we perish?**

**. . . so that everyone who believes in him may not perish."**

**Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. This is what he said: "no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God" (John 3:2). An unsteady, fitful confidence flickered like a sputtering wick in the dark. "How can these things be?" Riddled about the kingdom of God, flesh and Spirit, heaven and earth, he didn't hide inside of cautious silence or avoid heavy darkness.**

**Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark. There he found God's answer in a word. Believe. Believe not in a world without death or disaster, not in a world without suffering or loss, not in a world without devastation or humiliation, not in a world without defeat or shame. Believe in God who refuses to abandon such a world. Believe in the sign of God, Jesus himself, God's love for this world where joys do agonize, flowers do fade, springs do thirst. Believe in God in the dark night hour.**

**+++++**

# MAY 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3 10AM WELCA All ladies of the church may attend	4	5
6 Noisy Offering & Food Pantry Collection  2PM- Worship at the Brook	7	8  10AM- CutUps Quilting Group	9  Community Dinner-Penne Pasta-with meat/wine sauce and all the fixings. Help & Desserts needed. Meal starts at 5PM.	10	11	12
13	14	15	16  Business Expo Roscommon CRAF Center 3-6- Volunteers needed to work the table with Cory. 😊	17	18	19
20  Pastor Lonnie is off this Sunday. No Communion on this day.	21  6PM- Worship Life 7PM- Council Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 10AM- CutUps Quilting Group	30	31		

<b>MAY-2018</b>	<b>WORSHIP ASST.</b>	<b>MAY REMINDERS</b>
<b>MAY 6</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<u>WEDNESDAY MAY 9<sup>TH</sup></u> MESSIAH COMMUNITY DINNER
READER	RON ANDERSON	PENNE PASTA-WITH RUTH'S FAMOUS
USHERS	TERRY & DIANNE SANDERS	MEAT/WINE SAUCE-SALAD & BREAD
COM. ASST.	RUTH C. & ANN JORDAN	DESSERTS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Bulletins will be provided to work on at the pew every Sunday.	<u>WEDNESDAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup></u> - ROSCOMMON
WORSHIP ASST.	JOAN JAGUSZEWSKI	BUSINESS EXPO. 3-6PM- VOLUNTEERS
<b>MAY 13</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	NEEDED TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD THAT IS OUR BUSINESS 😊
READER	ANN JORDAN	
USHERS	BILL & VARLYA HANUSIK	<b><u>PRAYER PARTNER LETTER</u></b>
COM. ASST.	GARY GRAY & RED BRUNKE	Please remember to sign the PPL that is
PASTOR'S ASST.	RON ANDERSON	found on the information table. Each week we send a letter to another church in our synod that we pray for. 😊
<b>MAY 20</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	
READER	RED BRUNKE	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>
USHERS	RON & CAROL LEE ANDERSON	IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BAKE
COM. ASST.	<b>NO COMMUNION OR PASTOR LONNIE</b>	COOKIES OR BAKE A CAKE TO SHARE
PASTOR'S ASST.	JIM KRAUSS	DURING COFFEE HOUR, PLEASE FEEL
<b>MAY 27</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	FREE TO DO SO. HOMEMADE DESSERTS
READER	PATSY LIPPERT	ARE ALWAYS ENJOYED BY ALL. 😊
USHERS	LAUREL & DON GARDEY	WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS TO POUR
COM. ASST.	MARGARET & MARY ANN PERSSON	COFFEE AND CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS.
PASTOR'S ASST.	CHRIS MCMANAMON	YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED. 😊
<b><u>COUNTERS</u></b> <b>HAROLD &amp; LADONNA</b> <b>KRAMM 😊</b>	<b><u>FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED</u></b> CANNED PORK & BEANS BAR SOAP MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED ITEMS COLLECTED GO TO THE FOOD PANTRY AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 😊	<b>ALTAR CARE</b> <b>VARLYA HANUSIK</b>

## **Rendering to Caesar – But how?**

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" Luke 9:23.

Well, Tax Time has come and gone for this year. You may have noticed that your taxes were not due on the "Traditional April 15<sup>th</sup>" and that was due to a couple of things. First, the 15<sup>th</sup> was a Sunday and our Government doesn't work that day. Secondly, April 16<sup>th</sup> is Emancipation Day, a Washington DC holiday, thanks to President Lincoln. But guess what, in the news this morning, everyone gets an extra day due to "hardware" issues on the IRS website. Woot woot; nothing like prolonging the joy of paying our taxes.

So, consider this; Tax Freedom Day is April 19<sup>th</sup>. That's right, we have earned enough money on this date to pay the local tax bills we owe. Everything we earn starting on Friday, we get to keep! Yippee!

And boy is that tax bill astounding. As Americans we will pay \$3.19 trillion in federal taxes and \$1.8 trillion in state and local taxes this year. That total, \$5.19 Trillion, is more than we spend on food, clothing, and housing – combined. Yikes!

It's frustrating and mind boggling to think of those amounts of money. And it is natural for us to divide our financial loyalties between what we owe in taxes and what we keep for ourselves. However, when we divide ourselves (our minds) in this way, it often carries over into our spiritual lives as well.

In Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis observes:

"The ordinary idea which we all have before we become Christians is this. We take as starting point our ordinary self with its various desires and interests. We then admit that something else—call it 'morality' or 'decent behavior,' or 'the good of society'—has claims on this self: claims which interfere with its own desires.

"What we mean by 'being good' is giving in to those desires. Some of the things the ordinary self-wanted to do turn out to be what we call 'wrong': well, we must give them up. Other things, which the self-did not want to do, turn out to be what we call 'right': well, we shall have to do them.

"But we are hoping all the time that when all the demands have been met, the poor natural self will still have some chance, and some time, to get on with its own life and do what it likes. In fact, we are very like an honest man paying his taxes. He pays them all right, but he does hope that there will be enough left over for him to live on."

However, Jesus' way is different.

Our Lord told his followers, "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23). God's word calls us

to "*seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!*" (Psalm 105:4).

In other words, Jesus calls us to be transformational not transactional.

What do we mean by that? If the Bible clearly calls us to live unconditionally for and with our Lord, where do we get the idea that we can separate Sunday from Monday and the spiritual from the secular? Believe it or not but the answer in is in our DNA – our cultural genes.

I remember studying Greek mythology in high school (albeit a LONG time ago). Those gods, Zeus, Apollo, and the rest of the pantheon, live atop Mt Olympus but act like humans more than gods. They were capricious and scheming, which makes for good theatre but it lead the Greeks to believe that they had to be worshipped before they would give their worshippers what they wanted.

Thus, we find temples to the various deities across the ancient world. The scripture tells us that in Corinth, there was a temple to Apollo and in Athens, "the city was full of idols" (Acts 17:16). The Romans just renamed the gods and adapted the worship to fit their needs.

You see, people in the ancient world did not want a personal, intimate relationship with these gods. Their deities were too conniving and untrustworthy. Instead, our ancestors developed a transactional religion – if we give the gods what they want, they will give us what we want. Sacrifice became a "religious" duty, and once completed they went about their regular routine.

When Christianity grew into the larger Roman world, some of its followers adopted this same spiritual division. Over time, they even separated the "clergy" from the "laity" and built buildings so the clergy could do their work while the laity watched.

But the Bible does not offer a transactional religion with a distant god – it offers a transformational relationship with a loving Father.

So, this week, your taxes were due, part of your transactional relationship with your government. You can treat your soul as you do your taxes, or you can experience the abundant life Jesus died to offer you (John 10:10). Every moment of this day belongs to the Lord, to be used for His glory and our good. If we fully live today in His presence, we will reflect His light as we experience His power, peace and joy.

Paying our taxes becomes part of our daily worship. To quote Chuck Colson, "How now shall we live?"

## *Messiah Lutheran Church*

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Pray for each other....

05/06---05/12

Denise & Mike DeVolder  
Barb & Norman Ernest

05/13---05/19

Ric Falardeau  
Lesley Frazho

05/20---05/26

Don & Laurel Gardey  
Lou & JoAnn Gerard

05/27---06/02

Paul & Diane Goodell  
Mary & Karl Gottleber

### May Anniversaries

3\* Barb & Norman Ernest  
7\* Wendy & Ron Wiltse  
20\* Don & Laurel Gardey  
26\* Judy & Mike Lamoureux  
28\* Lou & JoAnn Gerard

### May Birthdays

3\* Wanda Chambers  
3\* Carol Schmidt  
6\* Rochelle Mertz  
6\* Marian Yenglin  
7\* Ward Billings  
8\* Lowell Karinen  
14\* Nick Anderson  
17\* Laurel Gardey  
19\* Dianne Sanders  
19\* Ted Buehler  
20\* Cole Anderson  
21\* Al Jordan  
21\* Harold Kramm  
23\* Catherine Brunke  
31\* Karl Schmidt