

# *"Messiah Messenger"*

ISSUE #27

JUNE 2025

## ***"Pentecost and Me"***

*"Come holy Light, guide divine,  
Cause the Word of life to shine.  
Teach us to know our God aright  
And call Him Father with delight.  
From every error keep us free;  
Let none but Christ our master be  
That we in living faith abide,  
In Him our Lord, with all our might  
confide. Alleluia, Alleluia!"*

***Martin Luther – 1524***

Dear Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran,

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Savior who lives in you and for you!

Scripture tells us that fifty days after the resurrection of our Lord, there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which we know as The Feast of Pentecost. The complete account can be found in Acts chapter two.

The Book of Acts is the story of the Holy Spirit and its activity within the Early Church. Acts is really an extension of Luke's Holy Gospel. It not only is in many ways a history of the Church but also records the Spirit's work. Throughout the pages of Acts, Luke records the Spirit's work which led to great growth in numbers and a strengthening of faith in Christ Jesus.

Some may think the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was a one-time event. But rather Holy Scripture tells us that it is a continuous event. The Bible tells us that at our Baptism,

the Holy Spirit is imparted within us as a deposit of our faith. And that the Holy Spirit works through the ministry of Word and Sacrament that is conducted within the Church. Lutherans refer to that as the "means of grace" as to how the Holy Spirit comes to me and continues to do His work within me.

If the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth as Jesus says He will do (See John 16:13) why then is there so much confusion as to what the Bible says? In the end it is a matter of faith! Humans can reject the truth of God's Word. When the Holy Word is not the norm for all life and faith – when "Thus says the Lord" no longer is taken at face value, all kinds of false teachings creep into the Orthodox Church. And that is especially true when I reject the Holy Spirit power and teaching in my life. My rejection of the teachings of the Holy Scripture is really a lack of faith. The Spirit's job is to strengthen your faith and lead you to a deeper understanding of those difficult teachings which the devil seeks to lead us away from.

Yes, Pentecost is very much a part of your life. I encourage you to listen to Him!

***Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Lohmeyer***

## THANKFUL HEARTS, RISEN LORD: HOLY REFLECTIONS AT MESSIAH

*Connie - President*

Greetings Messiah Family!

On Sundays, folks will bring concerns or pass on information to me. If I can resolve an issue quickly, I will. If not, I pass this on to a Council member or Elder, whichever is appropriate. Council members will discuss recent decisions, etc. But I wonder if inside the Sanctuary is the place to conduct this business. I, too, am quite guilty of engaging in this conduct, so I blame no one! My understanding is the approximately 30 minutes prior to services is for social connection yes, but primarily for meditation and self-examination. This is in preparation for services to solely focus on, and to worship, our Lord and Savior. As I learn more in Bible study, and walk in my relationship with Jesus Christ, I have become more aware that I am depriving myself of the meditation time and the central reason I enter the Sanctuary early. Maybe others are thinking this way too.

What are the solutions? Not less, but more communication, but preferably *outside of worship times*. I know, it is a challenging idea for me too! For some, Sunday may be the only time they can easily communicate with friends and socialize. For others, there are other options. We live in a texting world. Sending and receiving information and asking/answering questions quickly is a great convenience. But conveying subtleties and detail is very difficult via text. It can lead to miscommunication, confusion, even hurt feelings, over a word, idea, or request that was simply not communicated well. As a church family and as individuals, we must consider whether we are talking but *not listening and hearing*. And if we don't understand or dislike something we've heard from another, we *often neglect to ask them questions*.

An old school remedy may be *making a phone call to the other person*. I know, it sounds, well, *old*. It also may be intimidating

for some. Scheduling a meeting could come from this call, (groan) but it could address the concern in an informal, congenial manner.

A more contemporary idea is sending an email. Making plans and arrangements, assigning tasks, conveying information, and asking questions are often best conveyed in writing. In the event of confusion, rechecking the email may clarify things and prevent any misunderstandings, assumptions, or hurt feelings. If not, a new email, try the old school method. Making that phone call could create a better connection (no pun intended)! These ideas are offered as mere suggestions. I am responsible for myself, and I know I can improve.

So, if worship times are not the best for 'doing business', how can the congregation let the Council know their concerns or ideas? You can email or call the Council Chair that may be responsible for a particular issue. **Example:** If you want to share an idea about fundraising or welcoming newcomers, please contact the Stewardship or Evangelism Chairs for answers. If necessary, they will contact the Council President or Vice-President to discuss and then follow up with you. Also, anyone in the congregation can attend a Council meeting and present a concern or idea, in person! We welcome church members to share their thoughts with the Council. A personal address helps the Council to better understand your concerns and find resolutions. If you want to be on the Council agenda, please contact the Council President or Vice-President with your request. Council meetings are held the second Monday of each month.

All Council members' email addresses and phone numbers can be found in the Messiah Church directory. Once added to the agenda, your issue will be presented first.

*In Christ,  
Connie*

## **NOTES FROM THE TREASURER**

### ***Ken – Treasurer***

Our new Pastor arrives soon! Praise the Lord! We have been in touch and preparing for health insurance, pension, etc. I have forwarded many forms to him to complete!

As part of the process in relocation, I have transferred from our investment account to our checking account so we have funds available for his relocation from St. Louis, MO. Certain IRS rules must be followed, so I have “boned up” on the rules by reading the IRS pertinent instructions. This amount was approved by the congregation in our special meeting several months ago.

We paid our annual Church360 software renewal this week, our monthly insurance bill, Georgia Power—MLC, Georgia Power—Pinetree, City of Valdosta Utilities—MLC, City of Valdosta Utilities—Pinetree, Termite Bond MLC, and Carter Sign Company. Also, our Payroll was completed for May.

For an easy giving method, I encourage you to take a look at the Thrivent Messiah Lutheran page at

<https://service.thrivent.com/apps/ThriventChoiceMemberWeb/public/orgDetails/100244343209>.

**An even quicker alternative is Zelle from your bank to**

**[MessiahVLDtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:MessiahVLDtreasurer@gmail.com).**

FYI, I am also a Georgia Notary Public.

I do not charge for this service.

***Thanks for your continued support!***

Send Money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay



MessiahLutheranChub

m\*\*\*r@gmail.com



**zelle**

**Tap the code and spread some cheer,**

**Your support brings hope so near!**

**Give a little, change a lot—**

**Big things grow from what you've got!**



Give Online to Messiah!  
Scan code with your  
phone & follow  
directions.

## **PAVING THE PATH FORWARD**

***Richard – Long-Range Planning***

Dear Beloved Members,

As we prepare for the arrival of our new shepherd, the Long-Range Planning Committee has been exploring several ideas to strengthen our ministry and outreach. These are early-stage discussions, and your feedback is important as we move forward together.

### **Vision Statement**

We plan to revisit our Vision Statement after our new pastor is installed, so we can align future goals with their leadership.

### **Improving Our Online Presence**

We are considering updates to our website and social media, including daily scripture posts, brief devotionals, and church news to keep everyone informed and connected.

### **Facility Improvements & Fundraising**

To support the updates needed like new sanctuary carpet, we may hold a fundraiser, such as a community carwash. It is a simple way to raise funds and engage together.

### **Community Engagement**

We are looking at participating more in local events, such as the Azalea Festival and activities at VSU, to share our presence and faith with the broader community.

### **Outdoor Fellowship Area**

We are exploring the idea of moving the gazebo near the Pinetree House and adding a patio. A “buy-a-brick” fundraiser could help fund this project and create a space for fellowship and prayer.

### **Opening the Sanctuary for Prayer**

We may open the church during the week for quiet prayer and reflection, supported by volunteer hosts.

### **Women’s Bible Study**

We are considering starting a women’s Bible study group focused on scripture and fellowship. Let us know if you are interested.

***In Christ,  
Richard***

## **CHURCH CLEAN-UP:**

### **A JOB WELL DONE**

***Cindy – Property Chair***

*Ecclesiastes 4:9:*

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.*

The Church Clean-up Day was a huge success! Thanks go out to Cathy, Kelly, Donna, Kari, Arlene, Gary, Bo, Charlie, Sandy, Wendy, Deb, Bob, Abbey, John, and Laura for showing up with a true spirit to serve. They displayed the shining example of teamwork!

Here is a recap of the tasks completed. Interior windows washed, entrance to Sanctuary and back deck of Pinetree House pressure washed, pews and altar cleaned, pew pockets refreshed, bushes trimmed and trees limbed up, mildew cleaned off back wall of church, light installed, and trash behind shed moved to street for pickup. There is still more to accomplish, but this is a huge step forward in helping our church home look its best.

Directional signage for the property has been ordered. We have received feedback from visitors about some difficulty finding their way, so we are having signs made and installed that will highlight where to enter the Sanctuary, Sunday School, Church Office, Food Bank, and Fellowship Hall. The signage package should be completed and installed in the first part of June.

***As always, thanks for your support in taking care of the church property.***

**We are blessed!**



## **GATHERED TO SERVE,** **GUIDED TO SHINE**

*Carol – Worship Chair*

We will be holding an **Usher and Greeter Training** after service on **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. We have had several new volunteers join these roles, and these sessions are a great opportunity for all of us—new and seasoned—to align on duties and refresh our practices.

**Guidelines will be mailed out a week prior to each of the sessions**, so you'll have time to review and bring any ideas or suggestions to the session.

Duration 15 minutes.

We'll also be scheduling **Acolyte Training** coming soon. If you have any **summer travel plans during the month of June**, please let me know so we can plan the training schedule accordingly. Thank you, as always, for your joyful spirit, thoughtful contributions, and steadfast service. Each of you makes our worship experience special.

**You are truly a blessing to our congregation!**

**~ Worship Committee**

## **LWML SUMMER HIATUS**

*Kay – LWML*

LWML is taking the summer off! With summer vacations, we will not meet in June or July. For us to have the Christmas Bazaar on the first Saturday in November, we need all our crafters to get busy crafting now so that we are ready for the bazaar.

If any of you would like to share a craft with others in the group, let us know. We will set a time to work on your idea with the group.

***Thanks!***

## **CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER**

Church Council Update – April 2025

The Messiah Lutheran Church

Council met on May 12th, 2025.

Pastor Lohmeyer opened with a devotion and prayer. At the May 12 meeting, the Council celebrated the news that Pastor Wareham will graduate on May 16 and has accepted his call to Messiah. He plans to have both his Ordination and Installation services here.

The church received a rebate from our credit card and purchased a new office computer. Thanks to Ken for donating a laptop for Sunday School use.

Building and grounds updates included scheduling an electrician to connect the kitchen dishwasher and planning a Church Clean-Up Day for May 17. Carpet and pew cleaning was recently completed, and a new exterior sign was approved with a budget.

Looking ahead, the Council discussed long-range flooring replacement and upcoming fundraisers to support it. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

## **MAKE JOYFUL NOISE WITH US!**

*Kathy*

This month's **Joyful Noise Luncheon** is set for **Tuesday, June 17 at 11:45 AM**, and we're gathering at **Smokin' Pig** (4228 N Valdosta Rd) for some delicious BBQ and uplifting conversation.

It's a great chance to laugh, catch up, and enjoy some time together. **Please let Kathy know if you'll be there.** Can't wait to see you!

## **ROOTED IN CHRIST,** **GROWING IN STEWARDSHIP**

The heartland is now awash in various hues of green. The doldrums of winter give way to the colors of spring. Now, the promise of spring gives way to the growth of summer. Fields are planted and sprouted. Gardens are planted. Flowers adorn the beds of neighborhood homes and roadside ditches. Green is the shade of life!

Green growth is also the hue of the faithful steward. The seed of faith planted in human hearts in the waters of Holy Baptism grows as it is nurtured in the Word proclaimed and ingested in the Holy Supper. This faith does indeed save. But our stewardship of the Gospel is also designed to bear fruit for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor.

To consider this, let us look at the hymn, "Fruitful Trees, the Spirits Sowing" (LSB 691). It is very much a stewardship hymn!

*Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, may we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love, joy, and peace.*

- The tree of faith is not planted in us by us. It is the Spirit's work! We do not claim the title "steward." Rather, we are created for it (Gen. 1:26–28).
- He is the One who makes it grow in us. The fruits of the Spirit are borne out because we, by grace through faith, are connected to the vine that is Jesus (John 15).

*Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.*

- Our stewardship is NOT about what we do. It is about what the Holy Spirit does in and through us. That is the fruit that we bear. His fruit for His purposes.
- But that fruit is lived out through us. The world sees the fruit of our stewardship of the Gospel in lives lived connected to Word and Sacrament.

*Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.*

- Stewards have been created and redeemed to reflect the image of Jesus in the world. He is the pattern. We reflect to others around us the Light of the Gospel He has shone on us.
- This reflection comes when Christ's goodness flows from us to others.

*Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, may we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love, joy, and peace.*

- Just as the Spirit has created us for stewardship of the Gospel, so also does He cause our faithfulness! He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and KEEPS us in this faithful stewardship of the Gospel.
- The ultimate goal of our faithful stewardship is eternity. For us. For our neighbor. All worked out by the Spirit.

Green is the color of the world right now. It is also the color of our stewardship, and it is growing in us as we are connected to the vine, Jesus! God grant our growth in Him!



## **FEEDING HOPE: LOAVES AND FISHES** **NEEDS HELP—ONE CAN AT A TIME**

Last week, ‘Loaves and Fishes’ extended our sincerest gratitude to the St Francis Center in Valdosta for their recent donation of over 205 pounds of canned food to our ‘Loaves and Fishes’ food pantry.

The St Francis Center is located on 500 E. Mary Street in Valdosta. It is a small thrift store and food pantry. St. Francis Center has a remarkably interesting history. Check it out. It is managed by Laura, a member of St John's Catholic church. St John's Catholic Church has a food drive every so often for the St Francis Center. The St Francis Center then gives what they can't store to ‘Loaves and Fishes’ and the Soup Kitchen.

‘Loaves and Fishes’ also received 47 pounds of canned food from Messiah Lutheran Church last week, plus monetary contributions. The monetary contributions help pay for the food we buy at the Second Harvest of Valdosta. We buy over a thousand pounds of food at nineteen cents a pound, that is a good deal on food! We believe that Second Harvest's supplies have also seemed less lately due to what we believe are inflation costs.

‘Loaves and Fishes’ started in 2020 by Barb in the Pine Tree House. Kathy, Kay, and Sandy shop for food at Second Harvest of Valdosta, GA. Cathy fills the grocery bags. Mary Beth, Marcia, Pam, and Treina pass out the bags. Kari and Donna make over forty lunch bags with children's treats. Kelly is our muscle when we need him to help lift thousands of pounds of canned food. The team has put in over 70 hours this month alone. We are open on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 11 am to 3 pm. We presently have forty to fifty families that attend the days we are open.

‘Loaves and Fishes’ uses The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which is a federal program that is based on income and size of the family. TEFAP offers a wide range of nutritious foods, including fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, nuts, milk,

cheese, and whole-grain and enriched grain products like rice, cereal, and pasta. ‘Loaves and Fishes’ provides a monthly report on the TEFAP program to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Second Harvest also provides a salvage food program. Everyone is eligible for the Salvage Program. Local stores donate canned goods to Second Harvest that ‘Loaves and Fishes’ purchases as needed.

Many organizations partner with Second Harvest. Sometimes, the Second Harvest is short on food, so with the monetary donations received from MLC, Kay will go to Walmart and buy hot dogs and buns.

‘Loaves and Fishes’ also has a ‘Loaves and Fishes’ card to give to families shopping at the St Frances Center about our pantry. Drafted by Raquel, it goes like this:

✨ **Need a helping hand today?**

‘Loaves and Fishes’ is on the way!

 **2nd & 4th Wednesdays**—don't be late,

 **11 to 3, we're here to wait!**

 Fresh food, love, and care,

At Messiah Lutheran—we're always there!

**Not sure of the date?** No need to fret,

**Check our sign—you won't forget!**

‘Loaves and Fishes’ hopes to raise awareness of MLC with these cards, too.

**‘Loaves and Fishes’ NEEDS some help!**  
**Shopping, bag making, and extra muscles**  
**are ALWAYS appreciated!**

**Thank you for your generous donations of food and money.** You do not have to wait to donate until the second Sunday anymore!

You can bring food donations at any time and place them in the purple box in the Narthex. Monetary donations are welcome and appreciated—just place your gift in the offering plate and be sure to note that it is for the food pantry.

Our volunteers will take it from there!

**In service and with gratitude, from all of us**  
**at Loaves & Fishes.**



# June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 Bible Study  9:30 Sun. School  10:30 Worship  12:00 Meet the new Pastor: Stephen Wareham	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study  6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	<b>4</b> Pastor Out of Office	<b>5</b> Pastor Out of Office  9:00 LWML Quilters Group	<b>6</b> Pastor Out of Office	<b>7</b> Pastor Out of Office
<b>8</b> 9:00 Bible Study  9:30 Sun. School  10:30 Worship	<b>9</b> 6:00 Church Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study  6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	<b>11</b> 11-3 Food Pantry	<b>12</b> 9:00 LWML Quilters Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Bible Study  9:30 Sun. School  10:30 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study  11:45 Joyful Noise Lunch (Smokin' Pig)  5:30 Elder's Meeting  6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 LWML Quilters Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Bible Study  9:30 Sun. School  10:30 Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study  6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	<b>25</b> 11-3 Food Pantry	<b>26</b> 9:00 LWML Quilters Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Bible Study  9:30 Sun. School  10:30 Worship	<b>30</b>					





We hope to see you on Sundays at 10:30 for Worship!

Join us for Bible Studies, Quilters Group, or other Missions by checking the calendar above (or our website!) for days and times!

Thanks for reading our Newsletter!