

“Messiah Messenger”

Issue #30

October 2025

FROM BROKEN DAYS TO ETERNAL JOY

October makes me think of birthdays. Probably mostly because my own birthday is in October (October 9th, 1989, if you're wondering), but also because of all the birthdays that surround it. My son Caleb has his birthday on September 28th, and one of my best friends from high school, Meagham, has her birthday on September 30th. I graduated from the Marine Corps bootcamp on September 11th, 2009, and Marine Combat Training at the end of October 2009; even my ex-wife and mother of my two kids, Liz, has her birthday on October 11th! And birthdays, in our culture, are a time to celebrate! To gather with family and friends and celebrate the passing of another year with cake and presents and a party! I've certainly had birthdays like that, when everything was good and I got to spend that special day with everyone I care about most. But to be honest, the birthdays I remember most are the ones that weren't so good...

Like my 20th birthday, which I spent in Marine Combat Training, out in the field learning to throw a grenade, unable to so much as call my parents or friends. Or my 24th birthday, which I spent in the home that my wife and two kids had shared with me for three years, all alone after our separation. The times I spent my birthday at college and working in Chicago, taking myself out to dinner just to say that I had done something. And of course, all the birthdays that I've missed. Of friends and family, yes, but most of all my son Caleb and my daughter Lily. Every year that I'm unable to make it out to celebrate their birthday with them (sometimes I can go, sometimes not), I'm reminded that things aren't how they should be in this world. That no mother or father should have to spend their birthday without their children, and that no child should have to spend a birthday

without their parents. But we live in a broken world.

It's in those moments that I take comfort in the words of Revelation 21:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

One day, all things will be made anew, made as God always intended them to be: God with His people and His people with Him. As Christians, we have this promise from our God and we have faith that it is true, that we, along with all believers, all our brothers and sisters in Christ, will one day spend eternity in the new world, the heavenly Kingdom, together with our Father and our groom, His Son Jesus Christ. There will be no mourning, nor crying, nor pain, separation, or loneliness because this broken world will have passed away.

I look forward so much to spending that time eternal with all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Until then, we take comfort in the presence of one another and in the presence and promises of God, our Father, and His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen and amen,
Pastor Stephen Wareham**

WHEN SEASONS CHANGE, CHRIST REMAINS

Connie – President

Greetings Messiah Family,

With the creation of the new Event Committee, planning is underway for Oktoberfest and other occasions for the remainder of 2025. Oktoberfest will be celebrated on Saturday, October 18th, this year. Rebekah Rothas is the Event Committee Chairperson. More information about planning will follow from Rebekah!

The slight dip in the temperature outside in these early mornings, the smell of leaves burning, the appearance of pumpkins in stores and "pumpkin patches", tell us Autumn has arrived. Already, folks are beginning to stock up on spices, canned pumpkin, and other items in preparation for tailgating, fall meals, and activities. Fall is often a time of fun and increased social connections. But it's also the seasonal time of decline and transition.

As I reflect on this time and the recent world events, I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven". Certainly, this is true for our church family as well as our nation. I, for one, don't understand why there are bodily aches and pain, when I just want to feel healthy and whole. I don't know why I must experience sorrow and grief when I want to feel happy and content.

I cannot comprehend why evil exists, and why so often, good people pay the price of others' sin. But in His faithfulness, God transforms our infirmities into the strength of trust in Jesus. He comforts our grief with the promise of eternal life for the faithful. Christ even redirects our confusion and anger about evil events into purpose and a passion for doing His work.

We cannot, but God sees the larger picture. God has a plan for all our lives, regardless of our doubts. God always creates the greater good from our travails. The Lord always abides. The beginning of Fall means the season of change has arrived. Again reading Ecclesiastes, 3:14 reads, "I know everything God does is forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing can be taken from it. God does this so that we will fear him". As life changes, I am comforted by knowing that my Savior is unchanging and constant.

In His Name, Connie

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Ken – Treasurer

Our electricity bills dropped by almost \$300 from last month. The weather was a bit cooler, and A/C management from our property manager, Cindy, helped greatly!

As a reminder, I am a Georgia Notary Public. I do not charge for this service. If you are a fan of Zelle giving, our Zelle account can be found under
MessiahVLDtreasurer@gmail.com.

For an easy giving method, I encourage you to look at the Thrivent Messiah Lutheran page at <https://service.thrivent.com/apps/ThriventChoiceMemberWeb/public/orgDetails/100244343209>.



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



LOAVES AND FISHES: LOVE IN ACTION

Kathy - Evangelism

Messiah's Loaves and Fishes food pantry is busier each time we are open! We are averaging 50-60 families each time...our clients wait patiently for our door to open and are extremely courteous to each other, honoring who should be seen first once inside. There are instances where friends have gone home and brought their neighbors back so receive some food.

In the month of September, we have purchased 317 pounds of food...sometimes meat, eggs, almost always, and bread when available! Word passes quickly about what's in their bag and most are very appreciative.

So, the hours put in by the wonderful volunteers (76.75 hours) are really what we're all about! Thank you to all who help us either behind the scenes or up front when our doors are open. ***Together, we can make sure no one in our community goes hungry.***

SMALL EFFORTS, BIG IMPACT: KEEPING MESSIAH CLEAN FOR ALL

Cindy Hodge – Property Chair

Many thanks to those of you who signed up for tidying the church. We still have dates available in September and October. The sign up sheet clipboard is located on the table underneath the mailboxes in the old narthex.

Last month the electric bill was significantly less in both the church and Pinetree house. Cooler temperatures and your diligence in making sure the air conditioner settings were correct upon leaving the buildings really make a difference. Great job!

Another cost-saving measure has been implemented. The electronic sign in front of the church will go into sleep mode between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am. Thanks to Ken for the suggestion and Raquel for working with the technical support vendor to accomplish this.

As always, thanks for your support in taking care of the church property. We are blessed!

STAYING CONNECTED IN CHRIST

Carol – Worship Chair

One of the great blessings of being part of our church family is the joy of walking through life together. We share worship, prayer, and laughter, and we lift one another up in times of need. Pastor Stephen and our Elders are faithfully reaching out to our homebound members, but caring for one another is something we can all take part in.

If you notice that a friend has not been in the pew for a couple of weeks, take a moment to call, send a note, or drop by with a smile. These simple acts of kindness remind our friends that they are loved and remain an important part of our church family. We give thanks for those who are already making these caring connections. Scripture reminds us: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2). And we read, *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"* (Hebrews 10:24). Each caring act helps us live out these words together.

Our community also grows when we share the Good News beyond our walls. Raquel and Wendy have been joyfully posting new content on our Facebook page and website. If a post speaks to you, please share it with your friends and family. It is a simple way to spread Christ's love.

When you cannot join us in person, worship is streamed live each week on Messiah Lutheran Church's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086111405269>

Our bulletins are also available on our Messiah Lutheran Church website at: <https://messiahlutheranvld.com/bulletins>.

Let us keep caring for one another and finding ways to stay connected in Christ, both within our church family and in the world around us.

***In Jesus' Name,
Worship Committee***

**GOOD FOOD, GREAT COMPANY,
& JOYFUL NOISE!**

Kathy

This month's **Joyful Noise Luncheon** is set for **Tuesday, October 21st at 11:45 AM**, and we're gathering at **Wooden Nickel** (3269 Inner Perimeter Rd) to celebrate our Messiah Family with Joyful Noise.

It's a great chance to laugh, catch up, and spend some time together. Please let Kathy Andrew know if you'll be there.

Can't wait to see you there!

**WOMEN OF THE WORD:
A NEW STUDY BEGINS**

Long-Range Planning Committee

Grow in Faith with the Ladies' Bible Study!

Are you ready to learn more about God's word and connect with other women in our church community? I invite all the ladies of our congregation, and any friends they want to bring, to join our Ladies Bible Study, a welcoming space where we'll study Scripture, share a potluck meal, and support one another in our faith journeys.

Beginning October 14th, we'll begin a new Ladies' Bible study. Together, we'll explore Scripture's lessons on a wide variety of subjects. We'll spend the first evening getting to know each other and discussing which topics or books of the Bible we want to study.

- When: Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM
- Where: In the Fellowship Hall
- What to Bring: Just bring your Bible, a dish to pass, and an open heart!

I look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas!

*In His Grace,
Wendy*



**LWML NEWS:
FALL INTO FELLOWSHIP**

Kay – LWML

Welcome, fall, and hopefully cooler weather will follow! Our next LWML meeting is on October 7th from 3 - 5 pm in the fellowship hall. We will have a short business meeting to discuss the upcoming bazaar on November 1st. Bible study will follow. Until then, I would like to encourage all of our crafters in the congregation to work hard during the next month to make items for us to sell.

Proceeds from our Bazaar/Bake Sale go to many local charities. If you have any favorites, please let Janie Jenkins, Sandy Bingham, or me know. Thank you.

*With love and gratitude,
Kay*



LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE

Richard – LRP Committee

Dear Messiah Lutheran,

The Long-Range Planning Committee has been busy, praying about our church's future and how we can best serve our Lord and our community together. We're super excited to share some cool things coming up! Here are a few updates:

Ladies Bible Study

Mark your calendars! The Ladies' Bible Study is kicking off on Tuesday, October 14th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It's a fantastic time for us ladies to hang out, learn, and grow spiritually. Keep an eye out for the next newsletter, which will have a personal invite with all the deets about the study. We're so excited to dive into the Lord's Word together!

A New Vision for Our Church

After lots of prayers and chatting, the LRPC is thrilled to share a new Vision Statement for our congregation. This statement will help us guide our ministries and decisions as we move forward, all united in purpose. You'll find the new Vision Statement in the bulletin for you to read and reflect on Sunday, October 5th.

IT Coordinator Needed

We're looking for someone awesome to join us as an IT Coordinator! If you're tech-savvy and passionate about helping our church, we'd love to hear from you. In today's world, technology is super important for ministry and to reach out to others. If you're a whiz in any of these areas, we'd be thrilled to hear from you: website management, social media (especially Facebook), our awesome outdoor digital sign, streaming services to our TVs, or the audio room equipment.

It's a fantastic way to use your talents to help the church! If this sounds like something you'd be passionate about, please chat with Pastor Stephen.

Planning for Spiritual Renewal

The committee is brainstorming some exciting ideas for future retreats. We think these focused times away can be incredibly powerful for spiritual renewal and strengthening our relationships. We're looking into different

options, like retreats for men, women, or couples. Keep an eye out for more details as these plans take shape.

Stewardship Sunday Luncheon

As we look ahead to the new year, we're starting to plan a special Stewardship Sunday Luncheon for January. It'll be a wonderful chance to hang out and celebrate all the amazing ways the Lord has blessed our church family. We'll share more details as we get closer to the date.

We're so grateful for your prayers and support as we plan for the future. If you have any questions, ideas, or want to volunteer for any of these initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the LRPC.

Let's keep building our church family together!

In Christ,
Richard

OCKTOBERFEST AT MESSIAH!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 18th, from 3:00–7:00 p.m.** as we transform the Fellowship Hall into a festive German-themed celebration!

We'll provide **brats, hot dogs, buns, and all the fixings**, along with water and tea. Please bring your **favorite German dish or dessert to share**—from sauerkraut to strudel, we can't wait to taste your creations!



Bring your **German mementos, beer steins, books, or pictures** to display and share their stories. And of course, don't forget your **lederhosen and dirndl!** Pastor Stephen will be in charge of the music, setting the perfect Bavarian mood. It's **BYOBeer**, so bring your favorite brew to enjoy responsibly.

The afternoon promises **games, laughter, fellowship, and cozy firepits** outside—and maybe even **s'mores** to top it all off!

Come hungry, come ready to celebrate, and enjoy a night of community fun. **We can't wait to see you there!**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: **HARMONIOUS STEWARDSHIP**

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship and in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation, with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship as the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship. The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly!

Yet when altos, tenors, and basses sing their parts individually without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the baseline uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow, and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents, and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about an equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	3	4
5 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	6	7 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	8 11-3 Food Pantry	9 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	10	11
12 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	13 6:00 Church Council Meeting	14 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	15	16 REO OOO 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group 5:30 Long-Range Planning Comm. Meeting	17 REO OOO	18 REO OOO 3 pm - 7 pm: OCTOBERFEST with German Potluck
19 REO OOO 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	20	21 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 11:45 Joyful Noise (Wooden Nickel Inner Perimeter) 5:30 Elders Meeting 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	22 11-3 Food Pantry	23 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	24	25
26 9:00 Bible Study 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	27	28 10:00 "Tuesdays with the Pastor" Bible Study 6:00 Men's Potluck Bible Study	29	30 9:00 LWML Quilter's Group	31	



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