



MESSIAH MESSENGER



ISSUE #41

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Guidance, Encouragement, & Reflection

BRINGING WHAT WE HAVE: **GOD DOES THE REST**

Hello Messiah Family!

Ah, September. Always an exciting time of year, with so many things really getting started. From school to football to the Fall season (even if it doesn't feel like it's coming right now, it is!), there's always something going on in September. This September, too, is an exciting time at Valdosta, because this month, we'll be welcoming six new members (and their families!) into the Messiah Church Family! Along with our visitors and new people transferring to Messiah, it's an amazing time to be a part of Messiah as we watch God grow His flock!

And it really is God growing Messiah. We may be the ones here making all of the amazing things happening at Messiah happen, but we're only doing it because of Him.

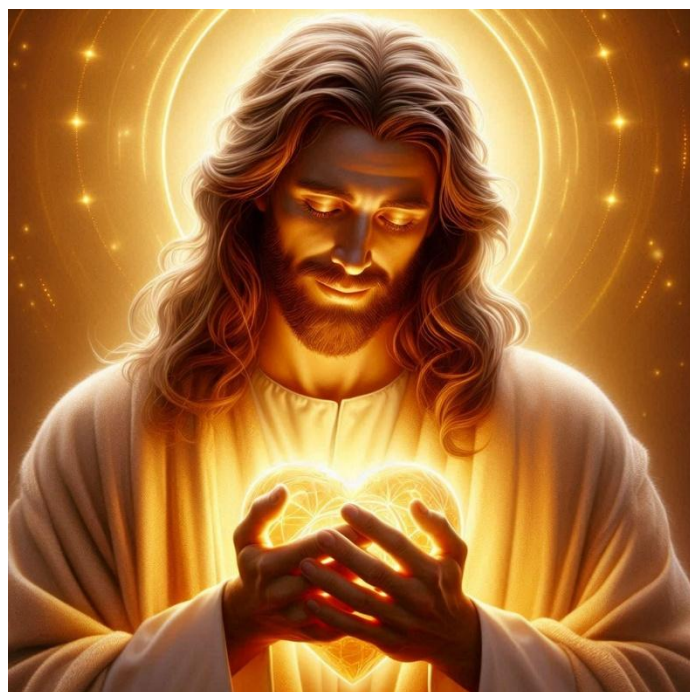
God is the one who inspires us, encourages us, blesses us with the time and talents to carry out his work of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. In Acts chapter 2, we are given an account of the day of Pentecost, the birth of the Christian church. 3000 people added to the church in a single day! But God didn't stop there. Verse 46 tells us: *⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

This is what we're blessed to be experiencing weekly here at Messiah Lutheran Church. I'm always amazed that every Sunday I get to meet someone new, get to look out over the congregation and see someone that I don't recognize, get to watch as God grows the Messiah family. And the biggest reason I hear from people as to why they came and why they come back is that everyone here is so welcoming and so friendly! Your love and fellowship that you all

share is the biggest way that God is working through you to grow his church, and I feel blessed to be the pastor of a flock that shows and shares God's love so well. And I look forward to this Fall season not just because of the cooler weather or the football (although I love both of those things), but because I look forward to getting to spend more time with all of you in fellowship.

And coming up, we've got lots going on here at Messiah. From Bingo to Oktoberfest to the LWML Christmas Bazaar, there will be a lot happening here as we get ready for Advent and the Christmas season! I hope y'all are excited as I am with all the opportunities for ministry and fellowship, and I look forward to seeing you out there. And if you want to be a part of making all these family gatherings happen, we can always use you and the gifts God gave you.

**God's Blessings on you and your families,
Pastor Stephen Wareham**



💰 NOTES FROM THE TREASURER 💰

Your Monthly Map to Messiah's Treasure

Ken Eldridge – Treasurer

Our fiscal year ended August 31st. We have managed to cover all our obligations over the past year, including some unbudgeted surprises! We had to replace the HVAC unit serving the nursery at a cost of over \$8,100. And we had a refrigerator failure that needed replacement at a cost of just over \$1,100. Thanks to those who earmarked donations for these unexpected expenses.

Our members stepped up and helped cover those costs and more throughout the past fiscal year. We also were able to help members financially who were in need due to being scammed.

Overall, we ended the year in a good place. We have “zero” debt other than the regular monthly recurring bills that we all face each month. Early in the year we paid off the “PPP” loan we had from Covid issues.

And we continue to have a fairly strong position in our investment account in the event we need to react to another series of storms as we did with hurricanes Idalia and Helene, when we had almost \$88,000 in damage, primarily to the Pine Tree house.

God has blessed us in so many ways this past year. Pastor had his one-year anniversary with us in July and continues to help us grow in so many ways. We also lost some dear friends through death and transfers, and they are missed.

At year-end, my second term ends as your treasurer. Over the past four years we have moved from a manual system to an automated one, and use Quicken for Business as our software package to track and report each month. Most of our major monthly obligations such as electricity, internet, and City of Valdosta services are set up now on autopay. Some smaller vendors are paid using Zelle, which saves us money!

Now the time has come for someone to step forward and replace me as treasurer as our constitution requires. Council positions are term-limited to two terms and I will have completed those at the end of December.

Please consider running for this important office position. You bring your own operating style to the job! I will help my replacement as much as needed to have a smooth transition. Without a church member candidate, we will need to hire a bookkeeping service at considerable cost. I hope we don't end up going in that direction, as I believe having a member who knows and is known to the other members helps smooth things along by better understanding the workings of Messiah Lutheran Church. Please prayerfully consider raising your hand for this office. Thank you.

🍇 JOYFUL BITES & HARMONY 🎵

Food, Fun, & Fellowship EVERY month!

Joyful Noise will be gathering for food, fun, and fellowship! If you'd like to join, please notify Kathy Andrew by February 11th, so that enough seats can be reserved.

📅 **Wednesday, September 15th** 🕒 **11:45 AM**

📍 **Olive Garden (1315 N Saint Augustine Rd)**

😊 **We HOPE to see you there!** 😊



🐑 THE SHEPHERD'S WATCH POST 🌿

Watching Over Our Flock with Prayer

Charlie Francis – Head Elder

If you know someone in our Messiah family who is ill, homebound, or living in a care facility, please reach out to Pastor or one of our elders.

By letting us know, we can extend timely prayer, encouragement, and support to those in need.

It truly takes our entire church family to help watch over our flock and to share Christ's care!

**A warm and sincere thank you from Pastor
Wareham and Your Elders!**



Guiding the Direction of Messiah
Connie DiMarco – Council President

A CALL TO SERVE OUR CHURCH

Greetings Messiah Family!

Next month I will be assembling a Nomination Committee to search for candidates for 2027-2029 Council positions. The following positions are being vacated by Council Chairs who are coming to the end of their terms:

Worship Chair (served two terms, four years total), Treasurer (assumed the position, serving 18 months, served second term for two years), Vice President/Secretary (served two years), Stewardship Chair (served two years). The election will be held in December. Installation of new Council Chairs will be held in January 2027.

Currently, the Chair positions for Evangelism and Children's Education are vacant.

These positions may be appointed by the Council President and will serve until the next election cycle in 2027. If interested, talk with the President, and we can make this happen.

Prior to the formation of the Nomination Committee, the Chairs leaving their offices were independently seeking candidates for their respective positions. If interested in becoming a candidate, the departing Council Chairs are available for your support, information, and guidance. If you desire to serve your Church, please reach out to a member of the Council. Below are the “job descriptions” of the available positions.

Treasurer

Purpose: Along with the Financial Secretary, oversee the financial affairs of the congregation.

1. Make disbursements as authorized by the Church Council.
2. Be responsible for recording all monies as received by the Financial Secretary and validate the deposits made by the Financial Secretary in the church bank accounts.
3. Maintain a set of permanent, accurate receipts and disbursement records.
4. Support the members of the finance and budget committees as requested.

5. Provide a current financial report to both the Church Council at their monthly meetings and at scheduled congregational meetings. Those reports shall be posted on the bulletin board in the administrative office once they are approved and forwarded for audit.

6. Be responsible for the care, storage, and management of all warranties and insurance renewals. Policies and any other valuable church documents may be kept in a safety deposit box when the Council deems it necessary.

7. When the annual audit is performed, will support its completion as requested.

Vice President/Secretary

Purpose: To serve as the second-level executive officer of the congregation and work with all elected and appointed officers, boards, and committees to assist them in carrying out their assigned duties and responsibilities.

1. Preside at all meetings of the Congregation and the Church Council when the President cannot be present.
2. Attend committee meetings as requested by the Council President.
3. Aid in training new officers.
4. Assist the President in any congregational business as deemed necessary.
5. Hold the additional office of Council Secretary.
6. Keep an accurate and permanent record of all Congregational and Church Council Meeting minutes. A copy of the above records shall be given to the President within ten (10) days following the meetings and made available to the congregation.
7. Maintain accurate lists of all congregational members, all voting members, all official committee and council members, and responsibility lists. Review these lists for accuracy at least annually.
8. Conduct such official correspondence as necessary.
9. Will be, if possible, the alternate delegate to the District Convention.

Worship Chair

Purpose: To be responsible for ensuring orderly services in all congregational activities.

1. Maintain and train a staff of ushers, greeters, readers, communion assistants, and acolytes to assist in worship services.

2. Provide Altar Guild training and scheduling for services. **See Worship Chair for changes to this responsibility.
3. Provide for the appropriate distribution of hymnals and Bibles in the church pews.
4. Be responsible for coordination with the Choir Director, Organist, and Bell Choir Director regarding music-related issues.
5. Ensure an accurate record of church attendance and communion participation.
6. Promote and foster a home devotional program for all families of the congregation in cooperation with the Chairman of Christian Education and the Pastor.
7. Provide a written Worship report to both the Church Council at their monthly meetings and at scheduled congregational meetings.

Stewardship Chair

Purpose: Provide oversight and direction for the congregation's stewardship life and to encourage all members to be fruitful stewards of the Lord's gifts.

1. Be responsible for organizing and promoting an active stewardship program in the congregation.
2. Develop a parish stewardship planning program for the year.
3. Enlist members of the congregation with talents for certain jobs.
4. If necessary, conduct the yearly "every member visit," securing the help of other members of the congregation as needed, coordinating with and in conjunction with the Pastor.
5. Coordinate with the Financial Secretary to provide all communicant members with contribution envelopes.
6. Cooperate with the Evangelism Chairman in encouraging members to grow in church participation.
7. Provide a written report to both the Church Council at their monthly meetings and at scheduled congregational meetings.

Christian Education Chair

Purpose: To guide the congregation's ongoing religious education efforts for all members, children and adult, as well as for prospective members.

1. Be responsible for promoting all Christian education in the congregation.

2. Supervise all educational activities within the church, following coordination with the Pastor, to include Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation Classes, Adult Bible Classes, Youth Group(s), and shall visit each of the above groups at least once a year.
3. Stimulate Christian education in the homes of the Congregation in conjunction with the efforts of the Pastor and Worship Chairman.
4. Obtain Youth Group sponsors and maintain a supervisory relationship with the youth of the group.
5. Select teachers with the approval of the Pastor.
6. Provide a written report to both the Church Council at their monthly meetings and at scheduled congregational meetings.

Evangelism Chair

Purpose: To oversee and give direction to the congregation's evangelism and outreach activities.

1. Responsible for all evangelistic efforts of the congregation and auxiliary organizations, i.e., Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Lutheran Laymen League.
2. Have the responsibility of recruiting and training lay persons as evangelism visitors.
3. Promote, plan, and carry out evangelistic programs outside and within the congregation in coordination with the Pastor.
4. Cooperate with the Stewardship Chairman in encouraging members to grow in church participation.
5. Provide a written report to both the Church Council at their monthly meetings and at scheduled congregational meetings.

Filling these positions ensures the Church Council can fully function to support, maintain, promote, and grow Messiah Lutheran. Prayerfully, consider becoming involved in your Church to serve its mission of "...sharing Christ's love through Worship, Education and Service".

IHN,
Connie DiMarco



✧ MITE BOX MATTERS ✧

What's in YOUR Mite Box? – Faith in Action
Kay Vincent – LWML Chair

LWML met in August. The ladies voted to continue the yearly Christmas bazaar. It will be held on Nov. 7 from 8 am - 1 pm in the fellowship hall.

Any members of Messiah who enjoy crafting, whether sewing, woodworking, painting, knitting/crocheting, etc. we look forward to your participation.

Cinnamon rolls & coffee/tea will be available for breakfast, and at lunch we will offer Chili and taco soup with tea/coffee.

A new idea will begin with this bazaar: We plan to open the bazaar on Friday evening for early bird shoppers who may be unable to come Saturday or would like to get an early start on shopping. Watch for our Friday evening times. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Queen-size quilt to be raffled at the bazaar. Maybe this will be your lucky year, and you will have the winning ticket!

☀ STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT ☀

Sharing, Serving, and Supporting Messiah

God has given us communities in our own families, in our church family and in other places as well. This verse reminds us of what a great blessing our church family is. In our culture, we often have Sunday morning as the only time that we see our church family. Our time together on Sunday morning is good and important, but we can also have a relationship with those in our church family beyond that time. Find ways with your family to build connections with other members of the congregation. You can talk to someone that you do not know well and encourage your children to do the same, or even invite them over for a shared meal.

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
Galatians 6:10

A CHAIR, A PRAYER, AND A WILLING HEART

Carol Walters – Worship Chair

*There once was a church full of cheer,
With wonderful helpers all year.*

They greeted and served,

With grace well deserved,

But a Worship Chair still must appear!

So, ponder and pray, if you will,

There's one little chair left to fill.

You won't serve alone,

We'll help you get going,

And yes, Carol will train you still!

**In His Service,
Messiah Worship Committee**



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3: LWML Meeting 6: Ladies Potluck Bible Study (NO GENTS BS)	2 PASTOR OOO	3 PASTOR OOO 9: Quilter's Group	4 PASTOR OOO	5 PASTOR OOO
6 PASTOR OOO 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Rev. Siefert	7	8 6: Ladies Potluck Bible Study (NO GENTS BS)	9 11 - 2: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	10 9: Quilter's Group PASTOR OOO CIRCUIT MTG	11	12
13 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	14 6:00 Church Council Meeting	15 10: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study 11:45 Joyful Noise Lunch - Olive Garden (1315 St. Augustine) 6: Ladies & Gents Separate Potluck Bible Study	16	17 9: Quilter's Group	18	19
20 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	21	22 10: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study 6: Ladies & Gents Separate Potluck Bible Study	23 11 - 2: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	24 9: Quilter's Group	25	26
27 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	28 PASTOR OOO	29 PASTOR OOO 6: Ladies Potluck Bible Study (NO GENTS BS)	30 PASTOR OOO			