

# Messiah Messenger

Issue #37

MAY 2026

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

*Guidance, Encouragement, & Reflection*

Hello Messiah Family!

Just a few days from heading to Rhode Island for Navy ODS, and I could not be more excited (or busy)! As I've mentioned several times, going back into the military, especially as a Chaplain, has been a dream and goal of mine for over a decade. And here I finally am, just a few days away from taking a major step towards that goal. I'll be getting my military ID card, getting to do some real training, getting yelled at (it'll be so nostalgic!), and, of course, getting my uniforms. I have to say, though, it'll all be because of y'all. Your support as a congregation is what has really, truly made this important moment for me possible. Throughout this first year, y'all have shown yourselves to be loving and supportive, and because of that, as excited as I am to go to ODS, I'm also excited to get back to Valdosta in June and be in Worship with you on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and I'm especially excited to begin my second year of ministry with you! It's going to be a great year, with lots of exciting things planned, and I can't wait to get started and out there in ministry with all of you.

Love y'all, be nice to the Elders and the Council and the Pastors covering on Sundays, and until I get back:

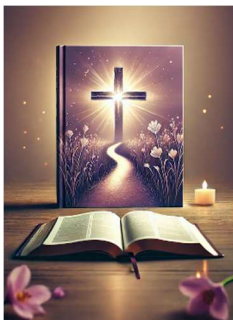
*The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.*

Until June!

**God's Blessings,  
Pastor Stephen Wareham**



## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

*Ken Eldridge – Treasurer*

### TREASURER NEEDED!

December 31<sup>st</sup> my second term ends as your treasurer. I will not be running for re-election as two terms on Council is enough for any one person!

And very soon (August 31<sup>st</sup>) our fiscal year ends! So, budget time is almost here again with budget preparation at the end of July, Council approval in August, and congregation approval at the end of August!

It would really be helpful if an interested person was to get involved now, work on the budget in a manner that suits them, and slides into the treasurer's position as I return to retirement at the end of December!

I could help during the transition and would be available for questions as they arise.

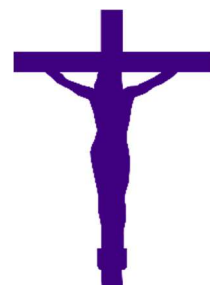
I know we have some talented members who most likely can perform this job much better than I can do! I have most things automated now so the bulk of the job is correctly categorizing receipts and expenses, and making sure bills are accrued and paid when due.

Payroll taxes are handled by our CPA and we simply write the checks to forward the taxes owed to the U.S. Treasury and State of Georgia.

Time is short. Please prayerfully consider running for this important office.

Pastor Wareham, we miss you while you are away at training and pray that all is going well for you! We are holding down the fort as best we can without you!

I prayerfully ask that you offer your support and encouragement to Pastor. He needs our affirmation and love. **God is good!**



## SERVING THE LORD WITH JOY

*Carol Walters – Worship Chair*

There is deep joy in serving the Lord with willing hands and faithful hearts. Each act of service, whether seen or unseen, becomes a quiet testimony of love for Christ and a blessing to His church. When we give of our time, care, and gifts, we strengthen our walk in God's Word and build up the body of Christ in love.

As we move through this season, may each of us prayerfully consider where the Lord may be opening a door to serve with gladness and devotion. Faithful service blesses others, strengthens the congregation, and draws our own hearts ever closer to Him.

*May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.*  
**Ruth 2:12**


**In His Service,  
Worship Committee**

## 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 May 19<sup>th</sup>, so that enough seats can be reserved. **See you there!** 😊

 **Tuesday, May 19th**

 **11:45 AM**

 **Raising Cane Country Store  
(3350 Newsome Rd)**

## LUTHERAN LENS

*Faith, Grace, and Christ-Centered Wisdom*

*“That they may all be one...” John 17:21*

Today's focus: The church around the world. Three Sides Podcast from Living Lutheran shares stories of faith, community, and global partnerships in the Lutheran church. It's a reminder that the Body of Christ is bigger than our own walls.

 **Listen here** 

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/podcast/>

## GAME ON AT MESSIAH!

Calling All Gamers! Join us for an afternoon of friendly competition, laughs, and fellowship.

**When: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM**

**Where: Messiah Lutheran – Fellowship Hall**

**Who: Everyone! Family & friends are welcome.**

This is a BYOG (bring-your-own-game) event.

Please feel free to bring one or two of your favorites, such as:



Board games



Card games



Dice or other dexterity games

A few refreshments will be provided, but everyone is welcome to bring snacks or drinks to share.

**We look forward to enjoying this day of fun and fellowship with everyone!**

## **? WHERE HAS THE LADDER GONE ?**

From time to time, items around the church are borrowed and returned without much thought—but occasionally, something goes missing longer than expected. That appears to be the case with our extension ladder.

Despite efforts to locate it, the ladder has not yet been found. It is valued at approximately \$300 and is an important piece of church property.

If you have any information about its whereabouts, please contact James Edmondson (Council Property Chair). Your help is appreciated as we care for the resources entrusted to our congregation.

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>PASTOR OOO</b>  <b>THROUGH</b> <b>THIS</b>  <b>MONTH</b>	2
3 9:15 Sun. School  9:45 Messiah Singers Practice  10:30 Worship with Rev. Muehler	4	5 3: LWML Meeting  6: Ladies Bible Study	6	7 9:00 Quilter's Group	8	9
10 9:15 Sun. School  9:45 Messiah Singers Practice  10:30 Worship with Rev. Siefert	11 6:00 Church Council Meeting	12 6: Ladies Bible Study	13 11 - 2: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	14 9:00 Quilter's Group	15	16
17 9:15 Sun. School  9:45 Messiah Singers Practice  10:30 Worship with Rev. Boyd	18	19 11:45: Joyful Noise - Raising Cane Country Store (3350 Newsome Rd)  6: Ladies Bible Study	20	21 9:00 Quilter's Group  5:30: Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting	22	23
24 9:15 Sun. School  9:45 Messiah Singers Practice  10:30 Worship with Rev. Muehler	25	26	27 11 - 2: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	28 9:00 Quilter's Group	29	30
31 9:15 Sun. School  9:45 Messiah Singers Practice  10:30 Worship with Rev. Siefert						