MESSIAH MESSENGER

ISSUE #42 OCTOBER 2026

PASTOR'S CORNER

Guidance, Encouragement, & Reflection

BRINGING WHAT WE HAVE: GOD DOES THE REST

God's blessings on you, Messiah Family!

Ah, October. Truly a great time of year. The weather is finally starting to cool off, Football is back, Halloween is coming up, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. Even my birthday is in October (so I may be a bit biased)! Something else this time of the year always makes me think of its new beginnings, even more so than January and New Year's Day. See, in September and October I'm almost always either moving somewhere new or getting settled in somewhere new. I've moved from one place to another far too often at this time of year; this is the first year in a while that I haven't. It's the time I graduated from Marine Corps Boot Camp and the time my son was born; the time when I started college and Seminary and even the job I had in Chicago for a while; now, it'll even be the time when my brother got married! It seems to be consistently a time of change in my life. And with that comes a feeling of both excitement and trepidation, anticipation and anxiety, joy and fear. When change happens, we're never sure what to expect.

When change is all around us, though, that's when the unchanging nature of God and His Word can be most comforting. One of my favorite of God's promises to us, from Psalm 121:8, is that He, "Will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." No matter what changes come, no matter how big or how small, how joyous or how terrible, our God is with us and His protection is over us! We are never left alone, bereft of His guidance and having to navigate life's constant changes on our own; we always have God as our rock, our foundation, our fortress. This has become clear to me over a lifetime of changes, that the one constant through them all has been God and His love and protection, just as it has been for all of us.

But, as usual, this is not all God offers us! In Jeremiah 29:11, He tells us that He has, "plans to prosper you… plans to give you hope and a future." We not only have God's protection and guidance and love, we also have the knowledge that God has His plan and purpose for us that will not fail. We may not know what to expect when changes happen, but God does, and He will lead us through it all under His divine protection! I can see this in my own life, as God as has lead me to a truly welcoming and caring family here at Messiah Lutheran.

I hope you and your family come out and join us for the events we have going on! From Oktoberfest to the Christmas Bazaar to everything coming up with Advent and Christmas, we would love to have you here with us! And as we enter into another year of new beginnings, rest confidently in the Words of God, trusting that His protection is always over us and that His plan for us never fails.

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



Bo Miller Sr.	1
John Michael Pellicone	1
Pam Withers	2
Stephanie Barritt	8
Pastor Wareham	9
Richard Lalone	24
Arlene Quast	26
Janie Jenkins	29

💰 NOTES FROM THE TREASURER 💰

Your Monthly Map to Messiah's Treasure

Ken Eldridge – Treasurer

The first month of our new fiscal year is ending! Time flies. It's also the end of the quarter, so quarterly taxes are due shortly. I will be submitting those in the second week of October. And of course, a curveball was thrown at us in the form of a failing sound system. After repair experts visited, we found that our 30+ year-old system needs some major parts replaced. The quote came in at just over $5,200.

Council voted to move forward with the project, so we will have our sound upgrades installed in time for the Christmas holidays. I transferred $5,000 from our investment account to cover this unbudgeted expense. If you'd consider donating towards the "sound project," it would be appreciated!

Our friend and property manager James continues to recover from his health issues, but is still unable to walk more than a few steps. Please keep him in your prayers! Also, if you use any facilities on our campus, please make sure you clean up, empty your trash, and lock up when you leave! And turn off or set the Heat/AC systems to unoccupied! James usually takes care of these issues, but his return is not expected for a couple of months at least.

From a financial perspective, we continue to meet our obligations when due, and have zero debt. We have not grown our investment account as extra funds to do so have not been available. We continue to earn about 4% on our investments, which are insured CD's and U.S. Treasury bills, invested for one year or less.

Additionally, the IRS just did a mid-year update on the mileage allowance for travel, which will increase our costs for substitute Pastors slightly as we pay mileage for their visits here.

I have one quarter left as your treasurer. I have enjoyed working with all of you for the past 3 - ½ years, and I believe our next treasurer will be able to slide right into that chair at the end of December.

Thanks to those who have given encouragement, support, and prayers. It is very much appreciated! We are blessed as a congregation to have such a caring group.

Also, please prayerfully consider the "volunteers sought" list Pastor has been inserting into the weekly bulletin. Things run better with many hands! Training is available, and your help is needed to keep our church growing!

Please find something you like to do, and volunteer! Thanks!

🍇 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, October 15th** ⏰ **11:45 AM**

📍 **Woodstack Cavern (4038 N Valdosta Rd, Hahira)**

😊 **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!



🌟 STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT 🌟

Sharing, Serving, and Supporting Messiah

The Bible is filled with places that praise God and talk about singing songs of praise. The Psalms in particular are full of this. We have a God who has done it all for us, and so we can respond with praise. We have a rich tradition of songs and hymns that praise our God. Many of these songs and hymns can help to teach the Christian faith, especially since songs are an easy way to learn and memorize.

Little children learn songs easily, and often these songs that we learn when we are very young are the ones that stay with us when we grow old. Parents can encourage children to sing by singing in church or by playing music at home or in the car that praises God and teaches the Christian faith.

"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:2



NEW MEMBER RECEPTION LUNCHEON

Get ready for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun! We're looking forward to gathering together and celebrating our newest Messiah family members on October 11th, right after worship.

If you're attending, please consider bringing a dish or item to share. Before signing up, peek at the sign-up sheet and see what others have already chosen.

To give everyone plenty of variety, we're aiming for no more than 2–3 of the same dish—so if the potato salad is covered, maybe it's time to show those desserts some love! 😉

Ready to bring something? Put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex!

Thank you for helping make this celebration a delicious, fun, and memorable afternoon for everyone!

🍂 OKTOBERFEST IS COMING! 🎉

Join us Sunday, October 25th, for an afternoon of **food, fellowship, and fun!** We're looking forward to gathering together and celebrating Oktoberfest with our Messiah family.

We're asking everyone who plans to attend to consider bringing a **dish or item to share**. Before signing up, take a peek at the sign-up sheet and see what others have already chosen.

To give everyone plenty of variety, we're aiming for **no more than 2–3 of the same dish**—so if the potato salad is covered, maybe it's time to show those desserts some love! 😉

Ready to bring something? Put your name on the sign-up sheet in the **Narthex!**

Thank you for helping make our Oktoberfest celebration a **delicious, fun, and memorable afternoon for everyone!**



🎃 TRUNK OR TREAT SPOOKTACULAR 🎃

Something spooky is brewing at Messiah! The Council is hoping to host a community Trunk or Treat this year and invite our neighbors to join us for some Halloween fun. 🍖🚗

We're still working out the date and details, but first, we need to know if we have enough trunks to make the event a success!

Would you be willing to decorate your trunk, hand out treats, and even dress up if you'd like? 👻

If you're interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Once we see how much participation we have, the Council can determine whether we have enough volunteers to move forward and select a date.

Let's fill those trunks and bring a little Halloween fun to the community! 🎃🪁

SURROUNDED BY GOD'S GRACE

Carol Walters – Worship Chair



FIVE SEATS. WHO WILL IT BE?

Five seats open, who will it be?
One, two, three, four, FIVE!

Count the chairs...

TREASURER
Counts the dollars, keeps us straight.

VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY
Takes the notes and knows the date.

STEWARDSHIP
Time and talents, gifts to share.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Growing faith with love and care.

EVANGELISM
Sharing Jesus everywhere!

Five seats open, who will it be?

One, two, three, four...

Could number FIVE be ME?

Interested? Curious? Maybe?

These positions may be appointed by the Council President and serve until the next election cycle in 2027.

Departing Chairs are available to answer questions, provide guidance, and help you get started. Talk with the President, a departing Chair, any Council member or Elder. And then I'd bring the hook back **one final time** at the bottom: Five seats. Five ways to serve. One might fit YOU.

In His Service,
Messiah Worship Committee

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 **PASTOR OOO** **9: Quilter's Group** **6: Messiah Singers Practice**	2 **PASTOR OOO**	3 **PASTOR OOO**
4 **PASTOR OOO** **10:30 Worship w. Rev. Siefert**	5 **PASTOR OOO**	6 **PASTOR OOO** **6: Ladies Potluck Bible Study**	7 **PASTOR OOO**	8 **PASTOR OOO** **9: Quilter's Group** **6: Messiah Singers Practice**	9 **PASTOR OOO**	10
11 **9:00 Adult Bible Study** **9:30 Bible School** **10:30 Worship** **12: New Member Welcome Luncheon**	12 **6:00 Church Council Meeting**	13 **10: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study** **6: Ladies & Gents Separate Potluck Bible Study**	14 **11 - 2: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**	15 **9: Quilter's Group** **6: Messiah Singers Practice**	16	17
18 **9:00 Adult Bible Study** **9:30 Bible School** **10:30 Worship**	19	20 **10: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study** **11:45 Joyful Noise - Woodstack Cavern (4038 N Valdosta Rd, Hahira)** **6: Ladies & Gents Separate Potluck Bible Study**	21	22 **9: Quilter's Group** **6: Messiah Singers Practice**	23	24
25 **9:00 Adult Bible Study** **9:30 Bible School** **10:30 Worship** **Oktoberfest Celebration**	26	27 **10: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study** **6: Ladies & Gents Separate Potluck Bible Study**	28 **11 - 2: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**	29 **9: Quilter's Group** **6: Messiah Singers Practice**	30	31