



Show by
your good life
that your works
are done with
gentleness
born of wisdom.



Messiah Messenger

September 2021

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Rev. Nils P. Niemeier ~ Pastor
Rev. Steve Unger ~ Associate Pastor
Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon

From Pastor Niemeier

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Messiah,

"Non scholae, sed vitae discimus." This Latin saying was the motto of a summer Latin language camp I attended in 2008. It means, "we learn, not for school, but for life." But the original form of this saying was different when the Roman author Seneca wrote it nearly 2000 years ago. Instead, he wrote "we learn, not for life, but for school." What he meant by that was that we often feel that we are being taught to the test, only reading and learning some subjects merely because that's what one sometimes does in school. I'm sure many of our students returning to classes this fall can sympathize with Seneca's original quotation--I know I did at their age, especially when the time for standardized tests came around.

But Seneca's original phrasing does not describe our learning in the church, for in the church, we truly do learn "for life"--for eternal life, no less! That's why we teach our children about the Bible; that's why we come to church on Sunday to hear God's Word and the sermon further explaining it; that's why we send our children to Sunday school and Catechism classes; and that is why we go to Bible studies and prayer groups and fellowship groups. In all these things, our understanding of God's Word and will for us is deepened and strengthened. These things help us grow, especially in our lives as Christians. And God's Word imparts life to those who believe it. So when we study the Word and spend time deepening our understanding of it, we really are "learning for life, not for school." In this case, learning makes us more alive by strengthening our faith and granting us eternal life by that faith!

So, as we collectively enter a new school year, I encourage you, if you are not already doing so, to spend time learning for life and not for school. Perhaps that will take the form of reading the Bible with your children at home and

discussing the week's lessons with them. Perhaps it is in doing your confirmation homework (or parents, perhaps it lies in helping you children with their work). Maybe it's in joining the women's Bible study. Or perhaps it is in diligently and assiduously coming to church each Sunday to hear God's Word and receive the sacraments. Life comes from the Word of God, and when it comes to our ears and minds through hearing, reading, meditation, and study, it does not return to God empty, but accomplishes that for which he sends it out (Isaiah 55:11).

In all these things, I pray that you learn for life, and not for school!

In His Grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier

P.S. The 16th of August marked one year since the beginning of my ministry at Messiah. It has not been an easy year for any of us under the specter of the pandemic, but I have learned much. I am grateful to God for that continued education and growth as a pastor here at Messiah. Indeed, as Luther wrote in one of his sacristy prayers,

"Lord God, You have appointed me a bishop and parson in the church. You see how unequipped I am to fulfill rightly so great and heavy an office, and if it were not for your counsel, I would have since ruined it all."

Thanks be to God for his counsel and care over this past year and for your prayers and assistance, and I pray that God continues to guide and keep all of us *together* at Messiah for years to come!



A Note of Thanks and Appreciation:

As many of you know, we lost our founding pastor at Messiah, Rev. Henry Koepchen, in April of this year. We wish to once again voice our appreciation and gratitude for all that Pastor Koepchen did for Messiah over his forty years as pastor,

diligently leading this congregation and helping to shape the lives of so many of our people. Now, even though he has gone on to be with the Lord, Pastor Koepchen is still helping Messiah through bequests he left for the congregation.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to our departed sister, Dorothy Doscher, who went to be with Christ in January. She has also remembered Messiah with a bequest.

The generous gifts from Pastor Koepchen and Dorothy Doscher will be used to pay down the building loan and install a new sign at Messiah.

We give thanks to God for these two saints, Henry and Dorothy, and for their continued work and influence among us!



Fall Service Schedule

Our fall Sunday service schedule at Messiah will see two services each Sunday at Messiah, the early service at **9:00 am** and the late service at **10:45 am**. The 9:00 service will be more of a blended/family service like the pre-COVID 9:30 service, while

the 10:45 will more strictly follow the liturgy as printed in the hymnal. Sunday school will take place during the 9:00 service.

The fall service schedule will begin on September 19, 2021.

Please contact the pastors for more details.

We look forward to worshipping with you!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our September mission is **The Mill Neck Family of Organizations**. They are is dedicated to creating a world in which deaf and hard of hearing individuals are included, empowered, celebrated and embraced as equals through quality and accessible education, sign language, spiritual development, employment, and habilitation programs and services. If you with to donate, please earmark your check "September Mission" and place in the offering plate



3 Janet Carey, Connor Mackey,
4 Claudia Retzlaff 6 Debra
Woolley
9 Meghan Bell,
11 Bonnis Baynon 12 Nancy
Noakes,
13 Lillian Wilson, Luke Ciota,
Courtney Quinn
14 Madison Yoos,
Tyler Wierzbicki

15 Collin McCabe 16 Brynn McFarland
17 Kenneth Hass, Aiden Larsen, Audrey Brazier
19 Jean Caminske, 21 Wendy Mendriski, Nevaeh DeFilipo
23 Rev. Charles Bell, 26 Debbie Blasco
27 Charles A. Bell, Megan Perfetti
28 Ella Walsh, Linda McGrady. 29 Hailey Buttaro
30 Laura Bell, Mackenzie Gazura

Official Acts

Transfer

Kelly Price (Transferred to Grace Lutheran, La Plata, MD)

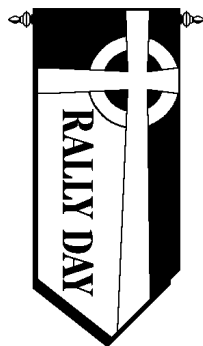
Baptism

Cora Jane Withers (6/29/21)

Lucy Lee Withers (6/29/21)

Funerals

Christopher Saul (7/13/21)



Join us for fellowship and fun! Our annual Rally Day Picnic will be held **Sunday, September 12th** after the service, rain or shine. This will be the last Sunday following the summer service schedule.

Register your children for Sunday School. Bring the whole family! They will enjoy games, prizes, cotton candy, etc. The church will supply the hot dogs. You can bring any other meat you would like to eat. We are

asking for you to bring a side, dessert or drinks to share. Sign up sheet is on the Events board in the Narthex or you can sign up on our website www.messiahny.org.

RSVP by Tuesday, September 7th.



The **Lutheran Women's Mission League** needs your help.

Please join us **Friday, Sept 17th at 3pm.**

Come and help us assemble school kits for
Lutheran World Relief.



On Friday, September 17th

beginning at 7 pm, we will be having an end of summer Youth Campfire. All youth, and anyone who is interested in helping in Youth Activities, come out and enjoy a night of campfires, smores, snacks, and fellowship. We'll be planning activities for the upcoming school year. Bring snacks, ideas, and bug spray (it's outside in summer after all). We will provide the drinks and smores. Looking forward to seeing everyone!



We are looking for Sunday School teachers and substitutes. It's a wonderful opportunity to help our children learn about our faith. If interested, please speak with Liann Dennis or Pastor Niemeier.

Confirmation Classes

Classes begin SEPTEMBER 14th

Both 7th & 8th grade classes will begin at 5:30 pm

Parents are required to attend the first session.



Our annual picnic was held on Sunday, July 11th at the church. It was a great time to meet & welcome our new Pastor and to enjoy fellowship with other members of the church after a year of isolation. The main course was catered by Smokey Bones in Ronkonkoma. We enjoyed pulled pork and pulled chicken along with coleslaw and Texas toast. Our members brought extra sides, drinks and

desserts. Everything was delicious! A big thank you to Roz from Smokey Bones for giving us a great deal and delivering it personally! What a blessing she has been to our church.

A big thank you to all who planned it and helped with set up and clean up. **A special thank you to the Sussino Family** for bringing the cotton candy machine. It was a big hit for all. Hopefully, as the year progresses, we continue to have more fellowship gatherings creating memories. All in His glory!

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” - Matthew 18:20





Women's Bible Study will resume on **Thursday, September 30 at 7pm**. Our fall topic is the New Testament church; its leadership, forms of worship, day-to-day life, and sense of community.

There's a lot to learn about how the first century congregations conducted themselves, and we'll be coming across more women along the way.

We'll meet both in the council room at church and via Zoom. Please sign up by contacting the church office by **Monday, September 20th**, and let us know how you plan to attend (in-person or remotely).



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We are now in the books of **Samuel!**

Join Pastor Niemeier on

Wednesday evenings at

6 pm as we read through the whole of Scripture together. This class is still being presented as a hybrid class, for in-person and online instruction using Zoom. Please sign-up at the link on www.messiahny.com or call the church office to get the codes to join!



New Church Directory!

We are updating the contact information for our congregation. Please pickup, complete and return an update form **by September 1.**

You'll find them in the Sunday bulletins or you can download one from our home page at www.messiahny.org

You need not be an official member of Messiah to participate. Please include everyone living at the same address on the form. It's helpful for the office to have birth years, but feel free to give us just the month and day.

Get your photo, too!

Once we have all the contact information, we'll be scheduling appointments for anyone who'd like their photos taken for a new photo directory. Check the website for more details.

After service on Sundays, we will be holding a coffee fellowship under the portico. Come join us for good coffee, snacks, tea, juice, and good conversation with you church family. We miss everyone and would like to start getting back to church & fellowship.





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readiness for children ages 2 to 4





Please consider joining us on **Sept 8th at 1 pm** either via Zoom or in person. We are always looking for volunteers to join our group and help serve our church.



Altar Flowers

If you are interested in having flowers at the altar in honor of an event or in memory of someone, please see the “Visitor Information” sheet in the pews. Please note: a flower donation envelope must be submitted with your payment of \$50 including information to be in the announcements.



**Electronic
Fund Giving**

You have the ability to have your pledges/ offerings automatically deducted from your account as you would a utility bill or cable bill. This would help the church keep a consistent flow of funds throughout the year. Go to our website

www.messiahny.com In the upper right-hand corner click on DONATE and it will take you to the link for Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account.



Join our Facebook Page

On the Church Facebook page, you will find information about church services and COVID-19 updates as well as devotionals and meditations.



Don't forget to subscribe to Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church's **YouTube** page! Here you'll find archived videos of streamed services, messages from the pastors, devotionals and other video resources.

Please share these videos with your friends and family! We would love to connect them to the life-giving Gospel every week through the preaching and services here at Messiah!

Follow our pages today! You can find links to both our Facebook and YouTube pages on our website,
www.messiahny.com.