

Messiah Messenger

May 2021

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
and Preschool / Day Care
465 Pond Path ~ E. Setauket, NY 11733
(631) 751-1775**

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www.messiahny.com**

**Rev. Nils Niemeier ~ Pastor
Rev. Stephen Unger ~ Associate Pastor
Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon**



In All Seasons, We are an Easter People!

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,

We collectively suffered a great congregational loss this April when our founding pastor, Rev. Henry Koepchen died and I know that his death came as a tremendous shock for all of us. The last time I was able to speak with him was on Palm Sunday. He was bored and was looking forward to going home from the hospital. He and I had plans to get-together to talk about Messiah's history once he was released, but sadly, our get-together never happened. Pastor Koepchen passed away several hours after I saw him early on Easter morning.

But that doesn't mean that a get-together isn't in the works someday. We are still in the season of Easter here at Messiah (it lasts until Pentecost on May 23). And being in Easter, we are reminded again and again of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and what that means for those who trust in Him. Jesus died and rose from the dead to signify his victory over sin and death, and He has promised all of us that we, too, shall be victorious over sin and the grave if we have faith in His name. And so, all throughout Easter we shout "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" and proclaim His saving resurrection for all to hear because we have faith in the promise Jesus has given us through our baptism into His death and resurrection. Death is not the end. Sin is not the end. Christ has put an *end* to them.

But this proclamation of the Easter promise doesn't end at Pentecost for us. We hear it every week because we, as Christians, are an Easter People. Even though the liturgical season of Easter ends at Pentecost, we don't stop living in the reality of Easter. *Easter doesn't go away.* We worship on Sundays now instead of on Saturdays (the old Sabbath day) precisely because Jesus rose from the grave on a Sunday

morning. We preach Christ crucified and resurrected for the forgiveness of sins at all times because this is what Jesus did for us on Easter. Our whole life has been redefined by this new Easter reality.

Pastor Koepchen told me that he was ready to go whenever the Lord called him. He trusted in Jesus' promise of new life and resurrection because he, like the rest of us, was (and remains) an Easter Person. We heard Bishop Lecakes preach about Pastor Koepchen's trust and joy in Jesus' Easter promise at his funeral. And it is with that assurance of Christ's Easter promise that I know we will see him and all our departed friends and loved ones again who are with Christ, for we are an Easter People. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5, ESV). Brothers and sisters, that joy is ours, and it is coming soon!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

In His grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier

Rev. Henry Koepchen

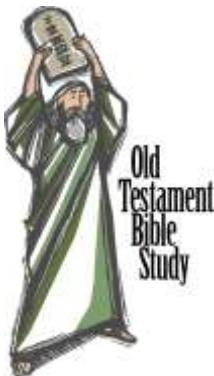
September 27, 1931 - April 12, 2021

Pastor Koepchen was the founding pastor of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, planting what would become our congregation in 1957. He oversaw the construction of the current church building, laying the cornerstone in 1966, and he faithfully shepherded the congregation at Messiah until his retirement from parish ministry in 1996. During his years at Messiah, he also served the church at large as the Secretary and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (1977-1992), and as the acting President of the Atlantic District in 1976.



Having gone to his Lord, he is also reunited with his beloved Louise (April 4, 1931 - February 3, 2017).

We give thanks to God for Pastor Koepchen's life of service and all the lives he touched at Messiah. He is interred in the Koepchen family plot at Graceland Memorial Park in Kenilworth, New Jersey.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We are now in the **Book of Joshua!**

Join Pastor Niemeier on **Wednesday evenings at**

5:30 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!

Women's Evening Bible Study



In keeping with our theme this year of Bible women, we'll be studying the book of Esther for about 7-8 weeks. This heroic story sounds a lot like a soap opera, but offers inspiring lessons for us, even today.

Come join us on **Thursday nights** Women's Bible Study at **7:00 pm.** Go to our website www.messiahny.com On the home page click on the box "BIBLE STUDIES." Then, "Click here to register for Women's Bible Class." This will take you to the registration form.

We'll start out meeting online, but may switch to mixed (online & face-to-face) at some point. You'll need to sign up by April 5 so we have everyone's email address. Please call the church office to register or click the link on our website.

If you'd like help getting your tablet, computer or phone set up for Zoom, please contact Deacon Thom or the church office.
(That's right, you can even listen in by phone if you like.)

Can't wait to see you all! Linda



Sunday School classes will resume on **May 2nd at 10:30 am.** If you have any questions regarding COVID protocols or who your child's teacher is, please contact Liann Dennis at limgd@aol.com or call to speak with her at (631) 413-5476

VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!



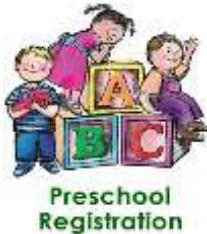
Messiah is in the process of upgrading our A/V equipment for live-streaming services, and we need your help! We are looking for a number of individuals who would be interested in running the camera and live-stream on Sunday mornings or for midweek services.

Please contact Pastor Niemeier or Deacon Thom Brownworth if you are interested in learning how to use our new equipment and how to broadcast a service.



Please join us **July 11th** for a socially distanced Church Picnic on the grounds of Messiah (weather permitting).

Pencil this date on your calendar. As more details become available we will pass them along. Please note due to the ever changing COVID pandemic this date could change.



IT'S TIME TO ENROLL FOR Preschool & Day Care for 2021 -2022

Registration materials can be found on line at messiahpreschoolanddaycare.com on the table in the Narthex or contact the church office.
Sign up while space is available!

We will be offering Summer Fun Programs

For Toddlers (18 - 24) months & Preschoolers

A different fun theme each week!

Flexible schedule

July 5th – August 27th

Registration forms can be found at

www.messiahpreschoolanddaycare.com, on the table in the Narthex or contact the church office.

An Easy Way to Help Messiah Lutheran Church, Preschool, and Day Care Fundraise

Do you shop online through **Amazon Smile**? They donate a small percentage of your purchase to our school.

All you need to do is shop on Amazon like you normally would, and Amazon donates a small percentage of your purchase to the organization of your choice. For all your holiday shopping, go to smile.amazon.com and search 11-6035375.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League



LWML will meet Friday,
May 21 at 3:00 pm.

We need dark bath and hand towels,
receiving blankets, sleepers, Dove or Ivory Soap Bars, Wide
Combs, toothbrushes, Baby Shirts and sweaters 9-24 months, no
newborn sized thank you.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Our Semi-annual Congregational Meeting
will be held
Sunday, June 6th after the 9:30 am service**

There is only 1 church service that day at 9:30 am. The meeting will immediately follow the service and will also be on Zoom for those who cannot not attend in person.

If you are interested in serving on a board, please contact Carl Caminske at ccaminske@gmail.com or call to speak with him at 631-343-7027



1 ~ Naomi Harris, Sarah-Jean Frank

2 ~ Amy Gruenfelder

5 ~ Emily Tanzi **7** ~ Taylor Collins

8 ~ Ruth Hawkins, Jennifer Setek,
Kyle McGrady

10 ~ Savannah Levine, Aidan Clarke
Avery Wierzbicki, Allyson Miller

11 ~ Daria Withers

12 ~ Brian Schneider, Sean Morris, Christina Perfetti

13 ~ Tina Baum, Natalie Anderson

15 ~ Ethan Sanislo

16 ~ Kaitlin Murphy, Ryan Schmidke, Owen Wierzbicki

17 ~ Amie Noakes, **18** ~ Mia Sussino, Daniel Dennis

19 ~ Rev. Alfred Hofler, **20** ~ Billy Spitz

21 ~ Victoria Hass, Herb Baynon **22** ~ Marcus Furrer
23 ~Nicholas Belmonte

27 Andrew Capozzi

28 ~ Liann Dennis, Jeremy Guise, Derek Guise

29 ~ Violet Galasso

31 ~ Caryl Ann Levine, Alexis Bell, Julia Bell



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.MESSIAHNY.COM

There you can **register for our Sunday services** held at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. You can also **register for Sunday School and Confirmation Classes.**

Now that we are living in the “new normal” of corona virus, quick communication between the church and congregation is crucial to keep you apprised of updates, service times, classes, etc. For this reason, we requested that you provide us with up-to-date **contact information including your e-mail address.** This will enable us to better reach you with information about events at church, new services, and messages from our pastors and boards.



Also, 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!



**Are You on Social Media?
We have two Facebook Pages:
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran
Church
and
Messiah Preschool and Day Care**

On the Church Facebook page, you will find information about church services and COVID-19 updates as well as devotionals and meditations. On the Preschool page, you will find information about our preschool program and registration forms.

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



**SUPPORT MINISTRY AT
MESSIAH WITH
FAITHSTREET**

FaithStreet provides you with the ability to make your pledges/offerings online to support Messiah's various programs and ministries. FaithStreet allows you to give one-time, weekly, monthly or twice per month via your bank account, credit card, and debit card (just like you pay your utility bills). You can make your offerings online or via text. It's safe and secure, supported by the most robust and up-to-date security available. This will help the church keep a consistent flow of funds throughout the year.

To give via FaithStreet, go to our website, www.messiahny.com. In the upper right-hand corner click on MORE, click on ONLINE GIVING/DONATION and it will take you to the link for Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account.



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.



GARDEN CLUB HELP NEEDED

Do you like to garden? Come help the Garden Club beautify the church grounds!
We meet on Tuesdays at 10am, weather permitting.

The current members of the Garden Club are slowing down and we need help from our young people! If there are any teenagers or groups (Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts) who would like to help out and need community service hours, please contact us at info@messiahny.com

Can't make Tuesdays? Come any day you can.
Speak to one of the members of the Garden Club for more information



Your donation helps us keep sending The Messiah Messenger
to members and friends of Messiah

Our Messenger is delivered to 400 homes in our area monthly.
Contact the church office at 751-1775
for more information.