



Messiah Messenger

JUNE 2021

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
and Preschool / Day Care
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www.messiahny.com**

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



My dear brothers and sisters at Messiah,

One of the events that put an indelible stamp on my childhood growing up in Virginia was the great emergence of Brood X (Ten), the enormous periodical cicada brood that burrows up from deep in the soil once every seventeen years. The last time Brood X emerged was in 2004. This year, it is back again, but we're not likely to see much of it on Long Island (but if you see any, let me know!).

If you've never experienced a brood emergence before, it is something awe inspiring, if not a little magical. At night, the red-eyed cicada nymphs emerge from the soil after spending nearly two decades feeding on sap from tree roots. Eventually, by the billions, they crawl up the trunks of trees and into the branches, where they shed their exoskeletons and emerge as adults.

There are so many that you can hear them all as they crawl through the grass up and up into the trees—one enormous rustle. Pure white when they shed their exoskeletons, they darken as their new exoskeletons harden and their wings expand by filling their wing veins with insect blood called haemolymph. The males emerge first, and when the females emerge, the males begin to sing to get their attention. And they like to sing LOUDLY (like Lutherans!), often so loudly that you cannot hear yourself speaking when you are outside. It is like standing next to a loudspeaker playing the sounds of European ambulances. The spectacle of billions of insects flying and calling is a sight to behold, unlike anything that we normally experience. It's one of the more amazing phenomena in God's creation.

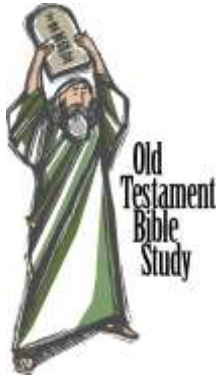


Adult periodical cicada emerging from its exoskeleton. Photo by Myra Niemeier, 2021.

I think that the cicadas' experience of emerging from their subterranean burrows to come out into the light is something of a parallel to our own experience of coming out of the lockdowns and constraints imposed by COVID-19. After a seemingly interminable time in lockdown, now that the virus' rate of infection is slowing and more medical advances have been made, it is safer to go about our daily lives. We have emerged from our own burrows. Now it is time for us to shed our skins and sing: "We're back! It's time to be humans again! It is time to be with our families and neighbors again! It is time to be with our friends at church again!"

And that is what we are doing at Messiah. New York has relaxed restrictions on churches to the point where we can now have 100% capacity for attendance. We are no longer requiring registration to attend services. We are beginning to have some more social activities at church, starting with coffee and tea under the portico beginning June 13, with a church picnic planned at Messiah for July 11. We are still taking precautions, wearing masks indoors during the service, sanitizing hands, and encouraging social distancing. But we are able to do more together now. For far too long, many of us have been kept separate from the fellowship of the church and from the sacraments. Now is the time to come back and to receive God's gifts with our brothers and sisters here at Messiah. We need one-another, and if you haven't been back, we miss you. Won't you join us?

In His grip,
Pastor Nils Niemeier



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We are now in the **Book of Judges**

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



The Women's bible class is on hiatus. Keep your eye on the announcements for a date when the class will resume.

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.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

We plan to meet over the summer and will decide in our May meeting on a time that works for our active members. In the meanwhile, please keep the **dark hand towels** and **dark bath towels** coming!!! Thank you to all who are making our Lutheran World Relief kits possible!





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 ~ David Mehrling, Megan Varvaro
3 ~ Liam Hanley, Colin Hanley
4 ~ Patrick Ochei, Susan Furrer
7 ~ Joshua Detwiler,
8 ~ Alessandra Liotta, Ethan Depinto
9 ~ Patrick Gourlay, May Baguio
10 ~ Artie Withers, Kyle Breitenbach
11 ~ Beth Tanzi, Nancy Hofler
12 ~ Marc Levine, Anthony Liotta
Elijah Riley, Justin Clarke
14 ~ Carter Ezeli; Michael Miller, PJ Scianna, Morgan Hofler
23 ~ Karen Hofler
25 ~ Avery Frank, Isabella Tantillo
28 ~ Alan Smith, Olivia Harrison;
29~ Hope TeNyenhuis, James Malcomson
30 ~ Karyn Bell, Lisa Yoos, Paul Sorensen, James Monahan



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.



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.



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



These young people have been educated in the tenets of the Lutheran faith and examined and have vowed to remain true to the confession into which they were baptized and received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 9th.

Tyler Blasco
Justin Clarke
Kaitlyn Malcomson
Lila McCabe
CeJae Reynolds
Luke Van Dyke

Madison Calvanese
Dylan Guise
Collin McCabe
Genevieve Moravick
Avery Smith



Vacation Bible School will run **every Sunday from June 13th on immediately following service until 1pm.** Volunteers are needed to help run the program. Anyone interested in registering or who would like more information, should contact Liann Dennis at limgd@aol.com or (631)413-5476.



SAVE THE DATE! Church picnic will be held **Sunday, July 11th** after service. Come meet Pastor Niemeier and join us in fellowship. Check your emails in the near future for more information.



**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

A big THANK YOU to **Boy Scout
Troop 427!!!**

On Saturday, May 15th they helped the
Garden Club do some clean up on the
church grounds.

What a blessing they are! It was a beautiful day and they gave up
their time to help us out. They worked really hard. May God
Bless them all.



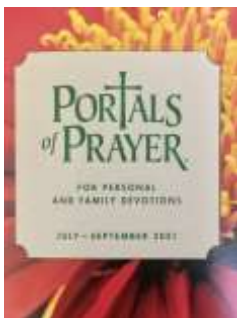
Starting Sunday, June 13th after the service, join us under the
portico for fellowship, coffee, tea, snacks, and water.
It's a great way to meet other members of the church!

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



FREE IN THE NARTHEX - TAKE ONE! (OR MORE)!

Did you ever wish you had a simple pamphlet that explained what Christians believe that you could use in your own devotions, or that you could give to someone else? Have you ever wondered why we do what we do at different times of the church year, but didn't know where to find the answers? Free copies of *A Simple Explanation of Christianity*, *A Simple Explanation of the Church Year*, and *A Simple Explanation of the Church Service* are available for you to take and share in the narthex!



Portals of Prayer

A great way to start each day, readings feature a Bible passage, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. It's great for personal devotions. Copies can be found on the table in the Narthex.



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 Contact the church office at 751-1775 for more information.