



the **M**essiah messenger

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Life Rhythm: Prayer, Worship, Work, Rest & Play

Since the first word of creation, there has been a rhythm in the world, a call and response giving rise to the marking of time. "God said, 'let there be light,' and there was light... evening came, and morning followed - the first day." Day after day, creation flowed forth. Then came a second rhythm: work giving way to rest. "And on the seventh day God rested..." (Genesis 1:3-2:2).

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). All creation is meant to move in time, but often we lose the rhythm. We cling to what we should leave, and we leave what we should cling to. We keep silent when we should speak, and we speak when we should keep silent. We need a Life Rhythm - prayer, worship, work, rest, and play - moving together, one giving way to another as God intends.

On Wednesdays during the season after Epiphany, we will explore such a rhythm, seeking a sustainable and sustaining Life Rhythm for each of us, and for all of us, in Christ.

Wednesday evenings
January 13—February 10, 2010

6:30-8:00 PM
(light snacks provided)

Meet in the church fellowship hall

Teacher: Vicar John Tirro
(plan to sing)

Rhythm of Prayer (January 13)

Rhythm of Worship
(January 20)

Rhythm of Rest
(February 3)

Rhythm of Work
(January 27)

Rhythm of Play
(February 10)



Epiphany Festival

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

7:00 PM

You are invited to join us in celebrating the Epiphany.

Messiah's choirs, instrumentalists, bell choir and soloists will come together on Epiphany (January 6) at 7:00 PM to share music of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

A reception will be held following the festival service in the church fellowship hall. All are invited.

This promises to be a wonderful event for all! Don't miss it. Put the date on your calendar now and invite your friends and family. Then...

... join us on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 PM

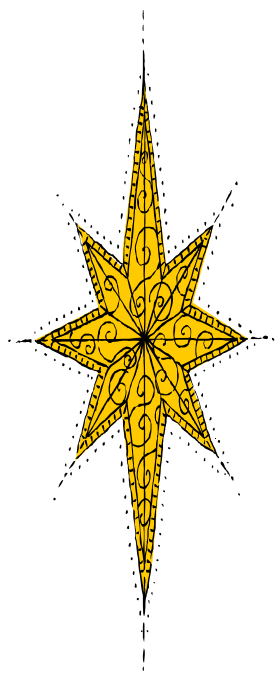


Annual Congregational Meeting
Part 2

Sunday, January 24, 2010
9:45 AM

Agenda items include:

- Receiving of Member-Disciples (see Page 7 for orientation schedule)
- Presentation and approval of 2010 Budget
- Presentation of Annual Reports



Epiphany Invitation

Vicar John Tirro

e•piph•a•ny [i•pif•uh•nee]

1. a Christian festival, observed on January 6, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi....
2. an appearance or manifestation, esp. of a deity.
3. a sudden, intuitive *perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something*, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience (www.dictionary.com).

Dear children of God,

By the time you read this, Advent—that great season of preparation—will be over. Christmas will be upon us, or in the past. I write to invite you ... to Epiphany! All Advent, we anticipated the light of Christ, coming into the world. At Christmas, we celebrate the light's arrival. On Epiphany, and during the weeks after Epiphany, the meaning of these events begins to dawn on us. We begin to have the 'aha!' moment... of Epiphany.

On Epiphany, as the wise men come from afar to see the baby Jesus, and as they go out to share the good news, we begin to see that the light of Christ shines, not just on a stable in Bethlehem, but for all the world. In the weeks after Epiphany, the emphasis is on discipleship and mission, on following the light into the world.

Epiphany provides us an opportunity, not just to see and celebrate Christ, but to discover ourselves in light of who he is. Who are we, and who are we called to become, in light of Christ? On the day of Epiphany (January 6) at 7:00 PM, we will have an Epiphany Festival, a gathering together of songs we've been singing through Advent and Christmas—a celebration of, and a meditation on, the light of Christ.

In worship on Sundays after Epiphany, we explore the meaning of Christ's light for us, through stories of identity, transformation, and discipleship:

- ❖ Jesus's baptism (January 10)
- ❖ Jesus's first miracle (January 17)
- ❖ Jesus's 'mission statement' (January 24)

- ❖ Jesus's rejection by people in his hometown (January 31)
- ❖ Jesus's call of the first disciples (February 7)
- ❖ Jesus's revelation in glory (February 14)

On Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM, we explore our responses further, with a class called *Life Rhythm: Prayer, Worship, Work, Rest & Play*. Through silence and conversation, focus and free association, activity and stillness, we seek a sustainable and sustaining rhythm of life, a way of following Christ, authentic to who we are, in light of who he is for us.

During the season, there are many opportunities to follow and share the light of Christ through service and fellowship. A few I would highlight:

- ❖ Luther League (high school age) Rock Climbing & Ice Cream (Jan 9)
- ❖ Teens Encounter Christ weekend retreat (Jan 15-18)
- ❖ FISH emergency food supply for families (Jan 12, Feb 9)
- ❖ Birthday Party at Lakeshore Mental Health Institute (Jan 19, Feb 16)
- ❖ Feeding the hungry at Knox Area Rescue Ministries (Feb 6)
- ❖ Yoga (Mondays at 4:30 PM)
- ❖ Coping with loss support group (Wednesdays at 1:30 PM)

More on the above can be found in the pages of this newsletter, and on our calendar online (messiahknoxville.org, then click 'calendar')!

I hope you are having a wonderful, blessed Christmas. I hope you will join us, to grow in the light of Christ, through the 'aha!' moments of Epiphany.

The light of Christ be with you!

the Messiah Messenger

Deadline is the 15th of each month

Your contributions and suggestions are welcomed.
The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Messenger Staff

Editor: Kristin Kennedy

Member News: Lois Sherman

Proofreaders: Lois Sherman, Allison Pressley, Dorothy Pearson

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday — 8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Friday hours vary.

You are invited to join Messiah Book Group for future discussions

We have a great year planned. Even if you do not get the book read, you are invited to come and participate in the discussions at 7:00 PM in the church library on the dates listed below.

January 4: *The Faith Club* by Idliby, Oliver & Warner

March 1: *The Lost Gospel* by Krosney

The Messiah Book Group will hold its first discussion for the year on January 4 at 7:00 PM in the church library. The book is *The Faith Club* by Idliby, Oliver & Warner, a wonderful story about a Jewish mother, a Christian mother, and a Muslim mother who try to write a book for their children about the events of September 11. The discussion will be led by Beth Ford, and there will be chocolate, also an important part of the book.

A discussion of *The Lost Gospels* will be led by Roy Biberdorf on March 1.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays at 9:45 am

Adult Sunday school begins year with study of Genesis

Sundays, January 3 - February 14 (except Jan. 24)

Tom Cole, Class leader

A six-session study of Genesis, based on the new Book of Faith Series, will begin Sunday, January 3 and continue through Sunday, February 14. Each class will begin, more or less, at 9:50 AM and conclude prior to the 11 o'clock worship. Classes are held in the fellowship hall and will be "misled" by Tom Cole who is very excited to finally be playing in the "Big Room." Bibles are available for use during the class, but if you have a favorite NRSV Bible, consider bringing it to class with you.

This is the beginning of a book-by-book journey through the Bible using resources from the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative. The studies in this series provide a fresh perspective on Scripture through the exploration of key themes and texts in the books of the Bible. While many core themes, story lines, and characters are shared by several books, each book is its own book of faith. There will be an optional study guide provided to each individual who wishes to do work outside of the classroom.

Begin the New Year and new decade by establishing a habit of regular Sunday school attendance. Hope to see you there!

Institute For Church Leadership Coming To The Southeastern Synod

Are you feeling called to a deeper engagement in the Christian faith and God's mission in the world? We are called to both, but too often we feel ill-prepared.



Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) is offering a series of courses designed for busy lay persons with a focus on preparation for leadership in and beyond the congregation. Foundations of the Bible, theology, and leadership will be explored, with a focus on the totality of God's mission in today's world. The courses will fit together in a comprehensive package, with a certificate in Missional Leadership awarded to those who complete the series. Participants will both deepen their knowledge of the faith and strengthen their capacity to articulate that faith with others in various contexts.

Grounded in Scripture and Lutheran theology, the Institute will emphasize lay leadership, but rostered leaders are also strongly encouraged to register to learn new ways to start or strengthen mission teams in a local congregational setting, or to serve as a missional leader in synodical ministry or in church-related agencies.

To complete the six course certificate program, participants take two courses per year for three years. Each course is designed as two Saturday sessions with small group exercise work to be done between classes. Participants will immediately learn at least one practical application that could strengthen their commitment to mission in the home, school, workplace, congregation, neighborhood, community, and God's world.

Messiah is paying the group rate.
Interested participants simply need to register as indicated below and pay only \$25.00 to Messiah.

Course #1 - Foundations of Theology; Taught by: Dr. Michael Root, Professor of Systematics Theology, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

The following dates and sites are confirmed in the Southeastern Synod. More may be added at a later date!

- Jan. 9th & 16th - Two half day courses-
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Woodstock, GA
- Jan. 23, Feb. 20 & March 13
St. John's Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Visit www.ltss.edu/churchleadership to register or for more information.



YOUTH NEWS

Angela Kronau
Youh Discipleship Committee

CrossMark (middle school)

Sunday School

Sunday school meets each Sunday with Danny Pressley as the lead teacher. We meet in the middle school classroom (on the lower level) at 9:45 AM using the Akaloo curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress.

Wednesday night Confirmation classes

Confirmation class will meet in the middle school classroom on the lower level on Wednesdays, January 13, 20 & 27.

Movie Night scheduled Jan. 24

Mark your calendar for Movie Night on Sunday, January 24. Please be on the lookout for more information on what promises to be a fun event.

Luther League (high school)

Sunday School

Sunday school meets each Sunday at 9:45 AM. We'll be using *FaithLens*, a study that links a current world event with scripture texts from the Common Lectionary to explore and better understand all of life in the context of faith and God's Word. Teachers will be (on a rotating basis): Julie & Rich Gibson, Gordon Burghardt, Cassie Alsup & Libby Helle and Carolyn Solberg.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Luther League will join Vicar John's *Life Rhythms* class. (See details on front page.) Your participation in this class is critical, so plan to join us.

Rock Climbing event scheduled for Jan. 9

Be on the look out for more information on our Rock Climbing/Ice Cream event Saturday, January 9, from 1:00-3:00 PM. We'll go rock climbing at The Climbing Center and then will return to church for some after-climbing ice cream.

Teens Encounter Christ

The next TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekend will be held January 15-18. If interested in attending, please see Pastor Eric.



CHILDREN'S NEWS

Heidi Murray
Children's Discipleship Chair

Merry Christmas! Yes it is a beautiful time of year—the twelve days of Christmas.

Thank you to all who donated "white" gifts for the Lakeshore project this year. The items will benefit many in that community. Hopefully, those who participated in the Jesse Tree devotion and shrinky dink project enjoyed the devotion and creativity it provided.

Epiphany Festival

Mark you calendar for Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 PM for the Epiphany Festival. Look for details on the front page of this *Messenger*. We hope you and your family will attend.

Vacation Bible School dates set

Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for June 14-17, 2010. Watch for further details in upcoming *Messengers*.

Children's Discipleship Team

The next Children's Discipleship meeting will be Thursday, January 7 at 6:00 PM.



Teens Encounter Christ

OTM TEC #17 (OVER THE MOUNTAIN TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST) will be held January 15-18, 2010.

If interested in attending, please see Pastor Eric.

We are in the process of gathering names of those willing to pray before, during and after the weekend. Your prayers for the TECites (first time participants) and the team are most welcome and vital for the success of the weekend for all. If you are willing to pray, please send your name and hometown to Allison Pressley at asdpres3@charter.net.



Bible Study

Join us for either morning or afternoon Bible study in the new year. We welcome you!

First Tuesday Bible Study will be on January 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Our lesson will be taken from the Jan/ Feb issue of *Lutheran Women Today* magazine. It is Session 5 - "Nothing Can Separate Us" (Paul's letter to the Romans cont.) Copies are available for those in need. Doris Featherston will be our Bible Study Leader. This Bible Study is open to all women. Come join us.

First Thursday Bible Study will be on January 7th at 1:00 pm. in the Fellowship Hall. Brown bag lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m. Our lesson will be taken from the Jan/Feb issue of *Lutheran Women Today* magazine. It is Session 5 - "Nothing Can Separate Us" (Paul's letter to the Romans cont.) Copies are available for those in need. Lynn White will be our Bible Study Leader. This Bible Study is open to all women. Come join us.

WELCA General Meeting

On January 11th at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall our program will be presented by two trainers from CURVES. Their customers range from 13 to 88 years old. They will talk to us about getting into shape after all the holiday indulgence.

Our Advent Tea was well attended by members and their guest. The fellowship hall was filled with scripture as read by Heidi Murray, song by Vicar John as he lent his voice with songs and stories; the Women's choir along with Pastor Eric in accompaniment; and Jenny Adams and her women's vocal group. At this year's Advent Tea, we kept everything in one location, the fellowship hall. We tried to capture the more intimate cozy feeling that was felt in years past when it was held in a member's home. Many made comments of how they liked this change. Many thanks to all who helped with printing, advertising, setup, decorating, cleanup, food and service that helped make this long time (40+ year) traditional annual event a success.

Knitters are needed for Prayer Shawls

Yarn is available for use. Contact Bonnie Pederson at 748-8044.

Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Program

We appreciate your continuing participation in collecting

the pop tabs for the benefit of Ronald McDonald House. Those shiny pull tabs from soup cans, soda cans and pet food are valuable. One pound of tabs is worth 65 cents; 500 pounds of pop tabs will take care of a family for a week at the Ronald McDonald house. Place tabs in a baggy and return to WELCA box in mail room.

Grandmother, Mother, Daughter Banquet

Mark your calendars for Saturday night on February 6th 2010. Author and wife of former pastor, Lou Bauer, Susan Bauer, will be our speaker. She authored the book "Choosing Africa". She will come to share her story. It is in the library for you to enjoy. You may bring a copy of her book for signing if you like at the banquet.

Cause for Applause

Thank you to those who prepared baked goods for Christmas Baskets for our "homebound members" and to those of you who delivered them. The goodies are much appreciated.

Our special Chrismon design this year to the Sunday School children was a horn. The Chrismon was designed and made by Priscilla Selkin. A special thanks to Priscilla for her work.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Advent Tea with printing, advertising, setup, decorating, cleanup, food and service that helped make this long time (40+ year) traditional annual event a success.

Calendar Notes:

* WELCA General Meeting - January 11, 2010 at 7:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

* Grandmother, Mother, Daughter Banquet - February 6, 2010 - Fellowship Hall

2009-2010 WELCA Leaders

President-Cristall Mount; Vice-President-Lynn White; Treasurer-Dawn Liner; Secretary-Gloria Nelson; Faith & Life-Illy Wood, chair; Outreach & Fellowship-Barbara Wilson, chair; Witness & Service-Anne Tinker, chair.

A Christmas Note from Shirley Kelly

Dear WELCA Friends,

Let us rejoice in the birth of our savior, at Christmas and always.

After I went back on the electronic *Messenger*, I realized more than ever, how much all of you are a part of my life. I eagerly wait to read about all of your activities. I tried going to a Circle meeting here for a few months but found them unproductive and they were at the same time as my exercise class here (a priority.)

Shirley Kelly



The Gift of Music

Joan McGinnis, Director of Music

Advent... Christmas... Epiphany... As I write these words, we have come together during Advent to experience the calming silence and quiet voice of God. We are preparing for the boisterous, joyful events of Christmas Eve as we

share in worship. We're traveling, cooking and celebrating with our families and friends. We look forward to the Epiphany, the knowledge that Christ is indeed among us as we come to adore Him. For me and so many others, it's the music of this time that tugs at the heart strings and brings us together.

The writer, Henry Giles wrote, "A song will outlive all sermons in the memory." How many of us have trouble memorizing scripture, but can sing "Joy to the World" by memory without missing a beat? Who can hear "Silent Night" and not sing along? And there's not a child I know who doesn't want to sing or play "Jingle Bells!"

We have had wonderful opportunities to sing the traditional carols on Christmas Eve and the Sundays of Christmas. This year we will also come together as a church family for an Epiphany Festival on January 6 at 7:00 PM. The Luther Choir, LIFE Choir, Wittenberg Ringers, Vicar John and other instrumentalists will share selections of music for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Some of you will have heard some of these pieces earlier in worship. This is a great time to hear the music sung in both services. There will be new pieces, also. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall. Please plan on attending and inviting friends and neighbors to join you. Better yet, go pick someone up who doesn't drive at night and bring them along with you.

This wonderful gift of music is for all, at any time. Share a favorite mp3 file with a friend. Go to someone in need and hum "Amazing Grace." Put music on during your dinnertime instead of having the television blaring. Be still and listen. Turn the radio up in the car and SING! God's music is all around us. What a wonderful gift!

Blessings,
Joan

Christmas Message From Bishop Gordy

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

That is the Christmas message at its most basic. Clarence Jordan, Greek scholar and founder of Koinonia Farm, translates the first part of that verse this way: "God was in Christ hugging the world to himself."

What an image that is! Look at Mary, hugging her swaddled, new-born, welcoming him into the world, and see God hugging the world, working forgiveness and welcome.

There's more: "and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." To us, sisters and brothers - God has trusted us, the church, with the life-giving message of reconciliation, that first of all, most of all, God loves us all.

This year we mark this holy birth in a world torn apart by every imaginable form of separation and division - ethnic, religious, nationalistic, economic. God's beloved creation is fractured; God's people are divided; Christ's church is distressed. In this anxious and broken world we, who are Jesus' followers, are called to let the world know that, in Jesus, in spite of all our differences, in spite of all the world's brokenness, all people are being reconciled and restored to God. And, we are called, in the middle of our differences, to be reconciled to one another.

May the peace and blessing of Mary's baby, the Reconciling One, be yours,

Julian Gordy

Bishop, ELCA Southeastern Synod



"Magi" by He Qi



New Member-Disciple Orientation

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010

12:15 pm

A new member orientation luncheon will be held Sunday, Jan.

10 at 12:15 PM in the church fellowship hall. If you are interested in becoming an official member-disciple of Messiah, please let us know by calling or emailing the church office (588-9753; office@messiahknoxville.org.)

New Member-Disciples will be received Sunday, Jan. 24

New member-disciples will be received at the Annual Meeting-Part 2 on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 9:45 AM.

Want something new and exciting to do with your teen this summer?

The Ulster project of Knoxville will offer an exciting multicultural, faith based, peace education project for teens age 14-16 during the month of July 2010. Eight teenagers from Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland will arrive in Knoxville as they have done since 1993. Equally divided male/female, Catholic/Protestant teens will spend the month with a host teen of the same sex and age. These 16 teens will get together every day for activities that center on service, fun, and teambuilding that create lifetime friendships. The project promotes peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland while developing youth leaders here in Knoxville. For more information please visit our website at www.theulsterproject.com or contact Cindy Ewart at 588-1844 or by email at cdewart@bellsouth.net. Applications to participate must be received by February 1st in order to ensure that we have our host families in July.

Marriage Encounter

The best experience for a good marriage available anywhere is Marriage Encounter. The encounter weekend is just good, old-fashioned romance for couples of any age. It's a dream vacation and a shot in the arm all rolled up into one. Marriage Encounter can put a song into a couple's heart, sparkle in their eyes and excitement in their voices. Marriage Encounter offers an opportunity for a couple to search out a warmer, closer, more meaningful relationship with one another. The next opportunity is Feb. 26 -28, 2010, in Myrtle Beach, SC. Registration deadline is Feb. 5, 2010. Visit www.godlovesmarriage.org to register on-line or see more weekend dates. You may also contact Charles & Billie Roach, by phone at 828-652-2882 or by e-mail roachves@charter.net for more information.

The LWR Coffee Project: your role in fair trade.

Micah 6:8 calls us, as Christians, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly. The LWR Coffee Project helps Lutherans answer that call by righting the injustices faced by small-scale farmers around the world.

The LWR Coffee Project closes the gap between our parish and the kind of communities in which LWR works. By using fair trade coffee and other products in our parish and homes, we guarantee that farmers will earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children, seek medical care and improve their communities.

What difference can a simple cup of coffee make? José Luis Castillo Vasquez, a member of a cooperative in El Salvador, put it simply: "I want to thank all of the congregations that purchase our coffee. It is thanks to you that we have a seed of hope in our lives."

Fair trade coffee (\$6 & \$7), tea (\$3), hot chocolate (\$5), and cranberries (\$4) are available for purchase in our church fellowship hall. We use the "honor system"—a basket is provided where you can leave your payment. Look for the display, as pictured above, in the church fellowship hall.



Profiles of Messiah focuses on Paula G. Hess

Pat Kopp, Reporter

Buffalo, New York, is known as the home of chicken wings, but is equally famous for “beef on weck”—rare slices of beef piled into a Kaiser roll spangled with coarse salt and kummelweck (caraway seeds), and then slathered with a rich gravy.



Paula Hess hails from Buffalo, New York, and will readily tell you that if you are up that way, Schwabl’s is the place to visit. It is located in West Seneca, New York, and it can safely be wagered that Paula knows the way there “blind-folded.” See her for more details!

Paula is lovingly married to Richard and loves “marking milestones” with Richard and recalling the births of their children and the “Grands.”

Her favorite work experience occurred while working with seniors in their homes. These clients often shared or confided things they would or could not share with family, and of course, Paula was a willing ear! She would love to have been Esther Williams. (You may remember her as the swimming beauty that graced the movie screens years ago.) Somehow Esther’s hair never drooped as she executed her suave strokes in the water. Amazing!

Paula enjoys reading and all outdoor activities, but watch her closely because she just “cannot stand anyone who tries to sell you a bill of goods that you believe to be wrong, but thinks you’re stupid enough to buy it!” You will not get away with that at all! Her faith is ever so strong and her sense of humor and optimism and her ability to cope took her safely through some recent health struggles. If she had all kinds of time and money, she would gratefully share these gifts with those in need. Paula added: “I love telling this. I was born in a Salvation Army Hospital for unwed mothers.”

At Messiah, she has offered her time at Lakeshore, the Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministry, the Congregational Care Committee, and as a Board Member of the former MLCC. She concludes by offering her humble thanks to the Messiah family for their prayers, love and support because these helped her stay strong and positive. And Paula you help us do the same because your ready smile and your outlook is an inspiration to the rest of us who share a pew and a hymn book!

Celebrating in January...

Happy birthday to...

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| Jan. 1 | Terri Burns | Jan. 18 | Jenny Adams |
| Jan. 2 | Daryl Bryan
Charlie Camp | Jan. 21 | Julie Gibson |
| Jan. 3 | Nelson Van Wie | Jan. 24 | Erin Rust |
| Jan. 5 | Clyde Furr | Jan. 25 | Roger Miller
Amanda Pederson |
| Jan. 6 | Camden Kincaid | Jan. 26 | Joan McGinnis |
| Jan. 10 | Nick McCall Jr.
Sherry Nicksch
Grayson McCormick | Jan. 27 | Irene Rudness |
| Jan. 12 | Nancy Andrews
Kelly Hudson
Megan Coates | Jan. 29 | James Wilson
Kent Solberg
Madison MacCabe |
| Jan. 13 | Sandy Trout | Jan. 30 | Jeffrey MacCabe |
| Jan. 14 | Carol Miller | | |
| Jan. 15 | Kay Shanahan
Curt Martin
José Vowell | | |



Happy anniversary to...

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 1 | Rachel and Jeff McCormick (16) |
| Jan. 10 | Joy & Mike Driver (35) |
| Jan. 14 | Juda & Sam Brown (10) |
| Jan. 19 | Illy & Wayne Wood (54)
Heather & Curt Martin (8) |
| Jan. 29 | Meredith & Wendell Liemohn (49) |



News and Notes from family and friends ...

We invite you to share items of interest and noteworthy news in this column. Submit information to Lois Sherman or send to: office@messiahknoxville.org

TED HATFIELD was named Hall's Man of the Year at the Hall's Business and Professional Association Christmas Dinner on Dec. 3. There was a picture of Ted and story in the Shopper News Now.

LESLIE SAYERS is a member of the girls basketball team at Bearden High School. When they played Catholic High School, she was the high scorer with 18 points.

A note from a visitor

I retired last May after 16 years in a congregation in Northern Wisconsin and both my husband and I have been grieving the loss of a community of faith that we loved. We visited your congregation the week before Thanksgiving and left, both of us, thinking, "we could move here. This is a great church!" Thanks to your congregation for the spirit of welcome and worship that was a healing to us. People used to say they could feel the spirit at the church we were lucky to be a part of. Now, after being with you, we ourselves know how true this is. A blessed Christmas to you all.

Margaret Johnson

CD's available in church office

Our own Vicar John Tirro has two CDs out. They are available to purchase in the church office for \$15 each.

◆ **Journey to the Jordan** - Thoughtful meditations on Christianity in today's world, with a communion liturgy for contemporary worship.



◆ **These Are the Gifts** - A contemplative and intelligent take on Christian music for listening or for worship.

Stop by the church office and ask Kristin about them



Note of Thanks

Derrick and I would like to thank the many folks who helped with the hanging of the greens and the decoration of our church: Julie and Rich Gibson, Jeannette Haase, Della, Ray, Marina and Kelly Cheak, Dawn, Emma and Meaghan Liner, Claire Wildermuth, Leslie Sayers, Wendell and Meredith Liemohn, Rob Shanahan, Bob Michel, Carolyn, Kent and Lauren Solberg, Sally Oakland, Heidi, Anna, and Pastor Eric Murray, Vicar John and Andy Tirro. A special thank you to Paul Kronau for taking everything out of storage.

Cynthia Hatcher

I would like to thank my Messiah family for all their cards, calls, visits, and especially their prayers for me during my knee replacement surgery and recuperation. I am truly blessed to worship with such wonderful, caring people. I would like to send a special thank you to Norm and Doris Featherston and Kelly and Hailey Hudson for keeping Judy company while I was in surgery; to Ray and Donna Maier for bringing me home from the hospital in their van since there was no way I could get into a car, and to Pastor Eric for his hospital visit and for bringing communion to our home. I would also like to thank my bride Judy for taking care of me, not only during this time but for everything she has done and continues to do for me. She is without a doubt a gift from God and I will never stop thanking Him for sending her to me.

May God continue to bless us all with His love, His grace, and the wonderful peace that only He can provide.

Richard Hunley

Our heartfelt thanks to Messiah's members of WELCA for the bag of delicious Christmas treats.

Thanks also to Messiah's carol singers for including the Michel household among their visits.

Aside to Joan McGinnis: After my solo rendition of Adeste Fideles, I'm sure you're glad I'm not in the choir.

Bob and Marjorie Michel

A Message from our Council President

Beth Ford, 2009 Congregation Council President

I have always thought that it would be fun to have a comparative religion class in Sunday school based on the light bulb jokes. Pastor Eric included the Lutheran version in his letter last month. "How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? None. Lutherans do not change." Despite the punch line, I think that Messiah Lutheran Church is running from the stereotype of never changing. While it is true that some aspects of our life together do not and should not change, such as respecting our rich Lutheran tradition and sharing meaningful worship, there is much here that is changing for the better and to the glory of God.

It is the first of the calendar year and not too far into the new church year. It is the time when many of us examine where we have been and where we are going. It is the time of year that we resolve to adopt new healthy habits, for our physical well being and for our spiritual well being. Messiah Vision 2010 offers up a list of what we can resolve to do so that we can better use our time, talent and treasures.

There is so much to look forward to. We can participate in the Book of Faith Initiative and read the entire Bible. We can become a more welcoming place and open our doors and hearts to the community around us. There is an exciting opportunity to support and sponsor a refugee family through Bridge Refugee Services. We can focus on our families and youth as we move toward hiring a staff person to coordinate ministries for families and youth. Although feeding the poor has always been a focus of our outreach, in 2010 we can move toward having a more intentional focus on hunger, its causes and what we can do to help eradicate it. Lastly, by the end of 2010, we should have the resources to hire an elder care advocate, all due to the generosity and foresight of Kathy and Merton Badenhop. What a glorious gift and what a wonderful year we have before us. How blessed we truly are!

I am so looking forward to sharing 2010 with each of you.

Peace,
Beth



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

from meeting of December 15, 2009

By Doris Featherston, Secretary

- Council officers for 2010: Beth Ford-President; Ellen Cole-Vice-President; Allison Pressley-Treasurer; Rob Shanahan-Financial Secretary; Doris Featherston-Secretary.
- Finance Committee will finalize the budget at the end of December.
- Congregational Meeting Part 2 will be held Sunday, January 24 and deadline for reports is Wednesday, January 6.



A report from the Finance Committee

*Rich Gibson
Finance Committee Chair*

Messiah's operating fund has been in a deficit position for eight of the eleven months of 2009. On an accrual basis, the total deficit is \$19,803 and is being paid from an operating surplus originating mostly from 2007. In 2008 operations ran a deficit of \$7,361 until December when contributions were enough to make up the deficit and produce a balance of \$2,097. \$11,190 remains in this surplus which will be needed to balance 2010 deficit months as well.

On an accrual basis, the contributions for November were \$37,158 and expenses were \$40,624. For the eleven months, income is \$415,676 and expenses are \$435,478. With eleven months being 91.67% of the budget year, contributions are 87.9% of what was expected and expenses are as they were budgeted at 91.4%. In previous years the December contributions eliminated the deficit, but we have not been in arrears this much in the recent past.

The Finance Committee will submit an operating budget for 2010 in January. At that time there will be a better understanding of what Messiah members are able to contribute and the committee will submit an operating budget in balance with expected contributions.

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If you enjoy the online world, now you can find Messiah there, too. If you "tweet" and follow folks on Twitter, then follow Messiah@GraceMatters.

You can also add your email address to our e-news list and receive email updates as well as the digital copy of our monthly *Messenger* newsletter.

And, of course, you can always stay up-to-date by visiting Messiah on the web at www.messiahknoxville.org.

for
JANUARY CALENDAR

see website

www.messiahknoxville.org

click on CHURCH CALENDAR link

How to access the online church calendar

You can view the church calendar online any time—day or night. And it will provide you the most up-to-date church calendar available.

1. Go to the church website at www.messiahknoxville.org.
2. Click on the Church Calendar link, found underneath the tabs on the left side of the main page.
3. Use the Next Month and Previous Month tabs on either side of the blue bar that indicate the name of the month to navigate to the month you need to view. (There is also a pull-down menu of months accessible from just above the calendar display on the left side of the page.)

After finding the month you are seeking, you can easily print the calendar by clicking on the grey tab (located at the top of the calendar) which indicates “Print View.” This will open the “Printing Instructions” screen. Follow the instructions indicated there to print out a copy of the calendar. If additional months are needed, simply exit the two print screens, maneuver to display the month desired, and click the “Print View” tab again, following the instructions indicated.

The church calendar constantly changes and this will provide you with the most current calendar available. Please reference it prior to your meetings or setting dates for church events.

To request an event, activity, or meeting to be added, changed, or updated on the church calendar , simply send an email to kristink@messiahknoxville.org or office@messiahknoxville.org or call Kristin in the church office (588-9753.)

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Living in God's Amazing Grace..

... Messiah Lutheran Church is

gathered,

empowered, and

set as disciples of Jesus Christ.