



the **M**essiah messenger

A monthly publication of Messiah Lutheran Church • ELCA • Knoxville • TN ... Volume 54 ... June 2010



Summer Sunday Brunch

June 13, 2010 - 9:45 am

Join us on Sunday, June 13 at 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall for the first of three Summer Sunday Brunches. Brunch will be served between services (9:45-10:45 am.)

Bring your favorite dish to share.

Congregational members are asked to bring their favorite brunch dish to share. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee and juice.

Hymn Sing

During the brunch we will have an old-fashioned hymn sing. Be thinking of your favorite hymns. We'll sing as many as time allows.



Mark your calendars for
brunches in July & August.

Summer Brunches will also be held on July 11 and August 8. Mark your calendars and join us for all three!

Vacation Bible School

BAOBAB BLAST

Monday, June 14 thru
Thursday, June 17

5:30-8:00 PM

Registration now open!

See page 5 for all the details!



Prayer Vigil

Saturday, June 5, 2010

8:00 AM-8:00 PM

Messiah Lutheran Church
is a house of Prayer.

Messiah will hold a Prayer Vigil on June 5 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Because early June is the beginning of summer, we will especially hold up summer travelers and vacationers; Confirmation Camp attendees who will be leaving for camp on June 6; the South East Synod Convention, being held that weekend; and other specific prayer requests.

The Sanctuary will be open and ushers will be in attendance.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside the library. Sign-up sheets for both the prayer time and usher times have space to include any special prayer requests you might have for the Vigil.

You may contact Georgia Phillippi to sign up, too (865-385-8586 or GBPhillipp@aol.com.) *Please note that the last "i" in Phillippi is not included in the email address.*

Please sign up to commit to pray for ½ hour.

On June 5, please spend time in prayer. You may come to the church and pray in the sanctuary, or pray at home or where you are.

You may come to the sanctuary to pray even if you cannot commit to a particular time. It is easy. On that Saturday, you will probably be running errands. Simply include a stop at the church to pray.

Ushers are also needed to sign up for a separate 2 hour time slot. We will have two ushers for each 2 hour slot. Ushers will be asked to greet those coming in to pray and to hand out prayer materials. One usher will be in the Narthex and the other in the sanctuary.





**Pastor's
Corner**

Guest Columnist

Beth Ford, Messiah Congregational President

At work I am in the middle of staff evaluations. Honestly, it is not my favorite part of my job, but, as Mike pointed out, it is probably not the favorite thing for my staff either. When the evaluations are over, I am usually pleased about how well things are going; how talented the people are with whom I am blessed to work; and what good things they are doing. I guess that I am just afraid that I am going to find out that I forgot to do something or that there is some big problem about which I am unaware.

While I am in evaluation mode, I thought that it might be a good time to look at Messiah Vision 2010. Since we are almost halfway through the year, we have time to celebrate our ministries and accomplishments, modify our goals, and consider re-energizing our original ideas. Over the next two months I plan to “evaluate” how I think that we are doing on our 2010 goals.

1. Messiah will become a “Book of Faith” congregation. *“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 3:14-15.*

Personally, I have not done too well with the goal of reading through the Bible this year. I started well, but I fizzled out. However, I have done better with daily devotions. How have your committees, fellowship events, Sunday School classes, and other gatherings done? Are we reading and sharing God’s word? My feeling is that this goal could use some attention, but there may be things happening that I do not know about. Let me know what you are doing.

2. Messiah will establish a welcome ministry. *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Heb 13:2*

Exciting things are happening here. The task force includes Rick Christian, Mary Williamson, Lois Houser, Fila Munuo, and Heather Kronau. They are looking carefully at what impression we make on visitors, and they are discussing ways to improve the visitor’s experience. One of their first recommendations which has already been adopted was to use the courtyard for fellowship between services. One of their challenges is how to pay for anything that might cost some money.

3. Messiah will call a Director of Children and Youth. *“He called a child, whom he put among them, and said.. ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.’” Matt 18:2-5*

This is another group that is working hard and developing a wonderful plan for focusing on families. The committee, chaired by Ellen Cole, is just about to unveil the job description for this position. As long as I have been a member of Messiah (which is now a lot longer than I was a member of my congregation of birth,) we have talked about how important children and families are to us. We are moving close to a time when we can really do something that could change the lives of many children and families. I challenge you to think about that and how we can make it happen. (Hint: we will need more income to get closer to this goal.)

4. Messiah will broaden its understanding and experience of worship in its many forms. *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.” Ps 100*

Having Vicar John with us was such a wonderful gift. His music talents certainly helped me make a more joyful noise. Trying new things is so exciting, and returning to the familiar can be so comforting. I am sad that his time was cut short, but I look forward to exploring new worship opportunities with our staff and all of you.

So far, I think that we have a passing grade. Next month we will look at what is going on with elder care and stewardship. If you have suggestions or ideas about Messiah Vision 2010, let me know.

Peace,
Beth

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
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Church Office Hours

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



ELCA-Southeastern Synod Assembly

June 4-6, 2010

The 2010 Southeastern Synod assembly will be held June 4-6 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Along with Pastor Eric Murray, Norm and Doris Featherston will attend as voting members from Messiah. Together with other voting members and guests, they will examine the Church—within the congrega-

tion, community, and around the world. Southeastern Synod Bishop Julian Gordy will chair the Assembly.

John Arthur Nunes will be the keynote speaker for the Assembly weekend. Nunes is the President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, an organization that acts to end poverty and uphold human dignity by empowering the world's most impoverished communities to bring about the transformation they need in order to live healthy, safe and secure lives.

A prominent Lutheran leader, thinker and speaker, Nunes is known for his compelling voice applying theological insight to matters ranging from global issues to urban affairs. He joined LWR in July 2007. Prior to that, he served as a college professor, management consultant, church musician, community organizer and pastor.

Nunes states: "My call to LWR really gives me a prodigious opportunity to serve in the power of the Spirit, since, as Luther reminds us, 'we should allow no one to suffer harm but show every kindness and love.'" (The Large Catechism)

Nunes holds advanced academic degrees from schools affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS.) He is currently a PhD candidate at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

The Rev. Stanley Olson, Executive Director for Vocation and Education, will serve as the churchwide representative. He will lead devotions and bring information about the ELCA Living into the Future Together (LIFT) Task Force, a task force commissioned by the ELCA Church Council to develop and recommend options for the future of the ELCA in light of its identity, changes in its environment and its call to God's mission.

Members of the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO) board will serve as volunteers during the weekend.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing funding to allow open captioning of the plenary sessions of this year's Synod Assembly.

For more information visit www.elca-ses.org/assembly.html



Pastor's Schedule for June

June 4-6 - ELCA-Southeastern Synod Assembly, Chattanooga, TN

June 6-12 - Messiah Confirmation Camp at Lutheridge, Arden, NC,

June 18-25 - AFFIRM (Southeastern Synod Middle & High School Youth Gathering) Berry College, Rome, GA

During Pastor Eric's time away, Pastor Jim Kroninger is available to respond to emergencies. He can be reached at 693-9165.



Messiah Book Group

The Messiah Book Group meets every few months to discuss books. Anyone interested is invited to join the group for one or all of the discussions. The group will meet in the

church library at 7:00 pm on the dates listed below for the book indicated.

- **July 5, 2010** - Discussion led by Lynn White
Ragman and Other Cries of Faith by Walter Wangerin
- **September 13, 2010** - Discussion led by Pat Kopp
Sistine Secrets: Michelangelo's Forbidden Messages in the Heart of the Vatican by Benjamin Blech & Roy Doliner
- **November 1, 2010** - Discussion led by Connie Cole
When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner

Other books on the group's list:

- *Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-up, and Burnt Out* by Brennan Manning
- *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch
- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
- *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question-Why We Suffer* by Bart D. Ehrman



YOUTH NEWS

Angela Kronau
Youth Discipleship Committee

Thank you!

Thanks to all who came and braved the rain and water games at the end-of-the-year party which was held at Pastor Eric's on Sunday, May 16. There was a total of 25 in attendance, including parents and youth.

Lauren Solberg leaves on mission trip

Please pray for Lauren Solberg as she leaves June 13 for a three-week mission trip beginning in Chicago with stops in Mexico and Arizona. The youth will be present at McGee Tyson Airport to cheer Lauren on as she departs from Knoxville. (See Luther League article below.)

CrossMark (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Campfirmation

Campfirmation (aka: Confirmation Camp) will be held June 6-12 at Lutheridge. Please keep Trevor Burkett, Gracie Burghardt, Anders Pearson, Kelsey West, Lexi Martin, Rylie Miller and Pastor Eric in your prayers as they attend.

Luther League (HIGH SCHOOL)

Send off for Lauren Solberg - Sunday, June 13

Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, June 13, to support Lauren Solberg as she leaves for a three-week mission trip in Chicago and Mexico. We will meet at McGee Tyson Airport at a time to be announced. Watch your email for the details.

Please update your email address

If we need to update your email, please send an email to Angela Kronau (arkronau@knology.net.)



2010 Confirmands—Aaron Liner & Kelsey West

We rejoiced as two youth confirmed their faith on Sunday, May 23

AARON LINER and KELSEY WEST were confirmed on Sunday, May 23. For the past two years, they have studied what it means to be a Christian in the Lutheran faith. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin a new phase in their spiritual journeys having affirmed the promises God made to them at their baptisms and confirmed their belief and faith as Christians.



CHILDREN'S NEWS

Heidi Murray
Children's Discipleship Chair

Thank you!

Thank you to all the teachers, parents, and members for all your support this school year. Your time, dedication and prayers are much appreciated by all!

Summer Sunday school to start June 6

The curriculum for summer Sunday school will be a study of the sacraments. Summer Sunday school class combines preschool through fifth grade due to the attendance numbers being low in the summer. If a child participating in the class has not had their first communion and desires to, the child and parents will be able to meet with Pastor Eric at the end of the study to discuss the child receiving their first communion. As always, children are encouraged to invite and bring friends!

Vacation Bible School

BAOBAB BLAST

Monday, June 14 thru
Thursday, June 17

5:30-8:00 PM



Registration now open!

Come be a part of God's great get-together! It is set in the expansive African savannah, under the impressive baobab tree. As the sun rises and sets on the savannah so, too, will faith and relationships grow as kids explore connections with God, family, friends, others, and the world. This experience will be facilitated through music, storytelling, crafts, science and games.

This opportunity is open to children preschool through fifth grade. Encourage your child to invite neighbors and friends. The more the merrier.

Registration forms can be found on the bulletin board on your way to Sunday school.



What is a Baobab?

Baobab is a giant tree found in Africa that creates its own ecosystem and is one of the world's oldest life forms. A baobab tree's hollowed-out trunk, leaves, foliage, nectar, fruit, and bark provide basic life needs for

many different creatures. The baobab tree serves as a meeting place for many people to gather, discuss, and share stories.

If you have any questions please contact, Heidi Murray at hkmurray@comcast.net.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Eric L. Murray

Adult Sunday school
Sundays at 9:45 am

Adults - Main Level - Fellowship Hall

Summer classes start June 6

Christian Commitment in Today's World by Margaret Krych (from Augsburg Adult Bible Studies curriculum)

Study what genuine Christian commitment means in today's world, and how God's faithfulness provides the foundation for this commitment.

- June 6 Visible to God (1 Thess. 1)
- June 13 Summer Sunday Brunch with Hymn Sing
- June 20 Sustained through Encouragement (1 Thess. 3)
- June 27 Demonstrated in Action (1 Thess. 4:1-12)
- July 4 God's Cosmic Plan (1 Thess. 4:13-5:28)
- July 11 Summer Sunday Brunch
- July 18 Chosen and Called (2 Thess. 2)
- July 25 God's Own Faithfulness (2 Thess. 3)
- Aug. 1 Rising above the Circumstances (Phil. 1)
- Aug. 8 Summer Sunday Brunch
- Aug. 15 Living into the Future (Phil. 3:1b-4:1)
- Aug. 22 Growing in Joy and Peace (Phil. 4:2-14)
- Aug. 29 Upheld by God (Acts 28; Phil. 4:15-23)

Young Adults Third Thursday Theology Pub

Thursday, June 17, 2010
7:00-8:00 PM



Messiah's young adults and their friends are invited to join Pastor Eric for a time of theological conversation at Mellow Mushroom located on Cumberland Avenue on June 17, 7:00-8:00 PM.

Legend suggests that Martin Luther would occasionally gather with students at a local pub for this sort of theological table talk. Bring a friend and join us as we engage in our own modern day theological table talk about faith, life, church and society.



Sacrifice as a Part Of Worship

Julie Gibson, Stewardship Chairperson

Recently I read a book by Mark Allan Powell entitled **Giving to God**. This book, along with three others that Pastor Eric asked me to read, has challenged and inspired me to adopt a new

perspective on stewardship and my **worship** of God. Powell notes that many people give an offering at church only to support the church operations and ministries. He says that “if we think the point of the offering is collecting funds to meet the church’s budgetary expenses, then we will probably derive no more satisfaction from this portion of the liturgy than we do from paying our gas bill. The Sunday offering is a worship event that provides us with an opportunity for expressing our love for God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that we value. The essence of faith is worship and the essence of worship is sacrifice—giving of ourselves in devotion to God.”

“Most of us know what it’s like to love someone so much that we want to give them things. The point is simply expressing our devotion through an offering of love.” The Bible is filled with stories of such giving. Noah exits the ark and promptly builds an altar and sacrifices to God. Jacob, following his experience of God in a dream, sets up a stone pillar and pours oil over it. The Magi offer their gifts to worship the one who has been born “king of the Jews.” Mary pours expensive nard over the feet of Jesus as an expression of love and adoration and he says what she has done will always be remembered. Jesus praises the example of the widow who gives her last penny in the temple. The giving in these stories was not out of obligation but as an act of worship.

Powell claims that worship is essential to faith and “sacrifice is essential to worship.” Faithful stewardship involves sacrificing to God as an act of worship. “When we worship God, we make God (rather than ourselves) the center of our devotion. Doing this always involves some element of self-denial or sacrifice, giving up something that we value, giving up attention to our wants and our needs in order to focus on God.” When we give cheerfully, as an act of worship, the very act of giving moves us to lose focus on ourselves and to offer our devotion to God.

We should give with a glad and generous heart as an expression of love and devotion to God who is so good to us. Powell feels that if we give with hearts full of devotion for the God who loves us, then the question of how much to give will work itself out in time. Giving as an act of worship takes us beyond duty to delight.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

from meeting of May 18, 2010

By Doris Featherston, Secretary

- A unanimous resolution was passed expressing appreciation to the Property Committee. Theirs is a thankless job and we want them to know that we thank them for all the hours of hard work.
- The Pumpkin Patch will once again be a part of Messiah’s fall programming. The date isn’t definite yet but mid-October (13 or 14) is our preference.
- Beth Ford, Georgia Phillippi and Ellen Cole will work together to brainstorm ideas for Goal 7 - a yearlong focus on the issue of hunger.
- A prayer vigil will be held June 5 from 8 AM to 8 PM at Messiah but you can pray wherever you are! Please sign up now.
- Kent Solberg has submitted his resignation from Council as he is moving to Florida with a job transfer. Council will appoint his successor.
- Finances remain a matter of concern. Giving for the month of May was \$40,319 and expenses were \$35,415. Unrestricted Funds are \$10,829. The year-to-date impact on reserves is a \$12,288 deficit.
- Stewardship: Julie Gibson will be assembling a group to work with her on a year-round stewardship plan.



A report from the Finance Committee

Rich Gibson

Finance Committee Chair

Contributions to the general operations of the church were boosted in April because of the Easter giving. The monthly contributions were \$40,319 and expenses were \$35,415 resulting in a monthly surplus of \$4,904. However a \$2,000 expense for April was paid in May. Otherwise, the April surplus would have been \$2,904.

For the first four months of this year, the contributions total \$138,639 and expenditures are \$150,927 leaving an operational deficit of \$12,288. At this time last year, the deficit was \$13,108. Contributions are \$9,575 lower this year than last year and expenses are lower by \$10,395.

The issue impacting operations is the decreased giving by the membership. With one third of the year behind us, contributions have been only 30.8% of what was expected instead of 33.3% (1/3 of the year). Each month we have averaged being short by \$2,837 compared to budget. Only \$10,830 remains in the reserve fund to cover budgetary shortfalls.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.elca.org/>

Homepage of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ELCA Southeastern Synod

<http://www.elca-ses.org/>

Lutheran World Relief

<http://www.lwr.org/>

Lutheran World Relief, an international nonprofit organization, works to end poverty and injustice by empowering some of the world's most impoverished communities to help themselves. With partners in 35 countries, LWR seeks to promote sustainable development with justice and dignity by helping communities bring about change for healthy, safe and secure lives; engage in Fair Trade; promote peace and reconciliation; and respond to emergencies. Headquartered in Baltimore, Md., LWR has worked in international development and relief since 1945. It is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)

www.ldr.org

Lutheran Disaster Response is a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. LDR seeks to demonstrate Christ's compassion for people by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness for disaster survivors.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

www.elca.org/hunger

ELCA World Hunger is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies—relief, development, education, and advocacy—to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. ELCA World Hunger responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world.

Lutheran Services in Tennessee

www.lstn.org

Lutheran Services in Tennessee (LST) has set up a disaster donation site to help those in need in the aftermath of the flooding earlier this month.

Compassion Coalition

<http://www.compassioncoalition.org/>

A Knoxville ministry whose goal is to inform, prepare, and unite churches to transform lives and communities through the love of Christ. Sign up for their newsletter and learn ways you can help those in need in our community. Messiah is a partner in this ministry.

Lutheridge/Lutherock

www.llmi.net

Lutheridge Conference Center and Camp in South Asheville, North Carolina, and Camp Lutherock near Boone, North Carolina, comprise two sites in western North Carolina providing summer camp for children and youth, family programs, adult programs, and opportunities to plan your own retreat or conference for your group. Affiliated with the ELCA, faith-based programs for children and youth of all denominations dominate the summer calendar. Family and adult program opportunities are growing in the summer and are offered year-round. Youth groups, family groups, public and private schools, college groups and more are customizing high-adventure and group-building retreats called LEAPS.

God Pause

www.luthersem.edu/godpause

Looking for spiritual refreshment? God Pause e-mail devotions are short, meaningful reflections on the following Sunday's lessons and gospel delivered directly to your email box. By Sunday, you'll be ready for an extra meaningful worship experience. Their devotion writers are Luther Seminary alumni/ae whose reflections are a gift to you and to the church.

Bible Browser

<http://bible.oremus.org/>

Search for Bible references using the New Revised Standard Version as well as other translations.

Lectionary

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Lectionary.aspx>

The *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL) provides a three-year plan for Sunday readings starting with the season of Advent, four weeks before Christmas day. We are currently following the lectionary for Year C.

Augsburg Fortress Store

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/>

Augsburg Fortress is the ELCA publishing house with a full array of Bibles, curricula, Bible studies, gift items and much more.



Are you a caregiver?

The April WELCA General Meeting featured guest speaker Bob Coyne on the topic of being a caregiver. Having assumed this role himself, caring for his ailing wife, he delivered eye-opening and thought-provoking information about caregiving and the toll it can take. In this column we will look at insight from his materials.

A QUIZ

Recognizing your role is the healthiest thing you can do for you! Thinking back over the last year, ask yourself the following questions:

Have I...

- ...taken my loved one to a healthcare professional or spoken with any healthcare professionals about my loved one's health?
- ...helped my loved one dress, bathe, prepare or eat a meal?
- ...administered to my loved one's medical needs?
- ...assisted my loved one with shopping, paying bills or doing chores around the house?
- ...arranged for outside services for my loved one, such as nurse's aides, transportation, housekeeping, medical care or other personal services?
- ...dealt with special needs tutors, physical/occupational/speech therapists, daycare, medical specialists or hospitalizations for my chronically ill child? ...handled issues relating to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, health insurance or other aspects of my loved one's finances? ...been involved in decisions regarding my loved one's housing options or housing needs?

If you answered yes to even one of the questions above, **you are a caregiver.**

A caregiver can be unaware of having assumed that role because of how gradually the scope of caregiving responsibilities has emerged. And whether you live with the care receiver or not, you can still carry caregiver responsibilities.

We can't underestimate the power of our desire to hold on to seeing a parent or loved one the way we have always seen them. Denial can come from the caregiver or the care recipient. Both can be caught up in the dance of denial. The move toward seeing a loved one as vulnerable, frail, needy, or weakened—no longer the mom or dad we have always known and relied on or the spouse who's been both your helpmate and soul mate—is an emotional journey.

Caring for a loved one is a deeply meaningful way to express your love and loyalty. But, you will definitely struggle with your role. The emotional toll of the caregiver is seldom acknowledged but the costs are tremendous and the potential for burnout is high.

You will need to define commitment that you can live with. You must deliver both emotional and physical hands-on help. You must come to terms with the cost and the ultimate value of your sacrifice. You will have to learn how to balance your hope for recovery with an acceptance of reality. You must cultivate awareness and flexibility on how to manage the many changing needs on both yourself and your loved one. And lastly, you must develop the intimacy of communicating with God in order to survive one of the most challenging pressures of your life.

Next month we will take a look at ways to take care of yourself as the caregiver. Believing in yourself, protecting your health, reaching out for help, speaking up for your rights, taking care of yourself, working your way through, and finding a balance are all challenges you will experience in your caregiving role. The role of caregiver is one of both heart wrenching and at times enlightening life lessons.



A Caregiver's Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me better understand and believe I can do what you ask me to do.

Forgive me for the times, even now,
when I question your judgment.

Lighten my burden, answer my prayer,
and give me the strength to do
what so often seems impossible.

Give me a quiet place to rest when I need it
and a quieting of my anxieties when I'm there.

Change my attitude from a tired,
frustrated and angry caregiver
to the loving and compassionate one I want to be.

Remain my constant companion
as I face the challenges of caregiving
and when my job is through
and it's time for me to let go,
help me remember
my dear one is leaving my loving arms
to enter your eternal embrace.

Amen.



Our purpose is to mobilize women to **Act Boldly** on their faith in Jesus Christ.

2010-2011 WELCA Leaders

Co-President-Lynne White; Co-President-Denny Blalock; Treasurer-Cristall Mount; Secretary-Kay Shanahan; Faith and Life-Illy Wood, chair; Outreach and Fellowship-Barbara Wilson, chair; Witness and Service-Anne Tinker, chair

WELCA Covered Dish Dinner Saturday, Aug. 14, 2010

On Saturday, Aug. 14, 2010, WELCA will sponsor a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall at 6:00 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Susan Bauer who will talk about her book **Choosing Africa**. Susan was scheduled to be our guest speaker at the Grandmother/Mother/Daughter Banquet this past February but she was unable to be with us because of snow. We certainly look forward to having her share with us. Everyone is invited. Pastor Lou Bauer will be here with Susan. Susan will have a few copies of her book with her if anyone wishes to purchase a book.

Combined Bible Study

During the summer we have decided to combine the WELCA Bible Study. The first study will be Thursday, June 3, 2010. A brown bag lunch begins at 12:30 PM and the study will begin at 1:00 PM. This study is taken from the June issue of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine and it is the first of a three part series entitled "Pray Always" by the Rev. Gladys Moore. Session one is entitled "Persistence." Lynn White will lead the study.

Twenty-Third Annual WELCA Convention

The twenty-third annual convention of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA will be held September 10-12, 2010, at the Hilton Marietta Conference Center, Marietta, Georgia. It would be great to have a strong contingent of ladies attending from Messiah. So far, Lynn White & Denny Blalock have committed to attend. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Lynn White.

Craft Fair in November

WELCA plans to host a craft fair again this year on Saturday, November 6, 2010. In addition to a WELCA table and a bake sale table, outside crafters will be invited to participate. We plan to have craft items from Lutheran World Relief again. More information will be coming.



Cantors needed!

Singers are needed to lead the singing of the Psalms during worship this summer. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the music room. I'll be happy to rehearse with you prior to the service.



Blessings,



Notes of Thanks

April 26, 2010

My dear friends in Christ,

All of us in this fledgling mission were joyously overwhelmed with your Lenten offering of \$1,705.01. Your gift is truly a sacrifice. How special it is for us that this offering comes from your Lenten journey. I've had an opportunity to visit with several of our worshippers. They all agree that the greatest gift is knowing of all your support, interest, and encouragement.

It has been a joy for all of us to be placed in the Jonesborough area to proclaim Christ's love. Most of our worshippers have been inactive or unchurched. Seeing their response to the means of grace has been very gratifying.

Again, we rejoice in your presence with us.

Peace,
Ed Wolff



Our family wants to thank you for the prayers, cards, and calls for the love and support during our 6 months with our son, Dr. Clark Robert Cobble so very ill with cancer. It was a fast-growing cancer and was predicted to him at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore that he only had 4-6 months to live. It was hard to believe and is our great loss - April 20, 2010. I'm happy Raymond is now home, after 5 months in the hospital and health care, so we are able to support each other in grieving. Sometimes I asked, "Dear Lord, how much more can I take?" Faith and trusting in the dear Lord was all I could do and be in Peace.

Ernestine Cobble



May 2010

The month of May was very eventful. The days and weeks ahead hold many promises.

Those of us who worship at Cross of Grace Lutheran Church have been blessed. The worshipping community, though small, is becoming close knit, loving, caring, supportive and willing to share. There is no need to plead with people to assist in worship. A simple “yes” when asked occurs almost every time. One of the most wonderful experiences is to watch the worshippers arrive with a smile on their faces and to observe how they warmly welcome first time worshippers.

We have an additional pianist. Her name is Jessica Siple. She will be leading us in music on the first and third Sundays of the month. She also brings with her a special gift. She loves to expose children to music. After worship on those Sundays, she will teach music in a simple and easy way to children ranging in ages two to six.

On May 18, Sharon Barger, our Parish Nurse, will initiate a new program at the Jonesborough Area Senior Center called “Lunch and Learn.” The first presenter is from the Johnson City Free Clinic and will discuss access to free medicine. This is important to many of the members of the Senior Center. In the fall, they experience the “donut hole” of Medicare. Many have to decide between food and medicine.

Our “Cook-Out, Cooked-In” event drew thirty-seven people, including new people. The last time we held this event, before beginning worship, there were less than twenty.

Attendance has not grown rapidly, but it does grow. A couple of months ago, we could expect twenty for worship. Now, we experience a new level around twenty-five. We returned to making initial calls. Two new families have joined us as regular worshippers since as a result of proclaiming the gospel in this direct way.

The weekend of August 22, Nancy Christensen, Mission Director for our synod, will facilitate a leadership retreat for Cross of Grace. All are welcome.

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Jonesborough, TN 37659
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Profiles of Messiah - Ray Maier

Pat Kopp, Reporter

If every church had just one member as dedicated to its well being as our featured member, our world might be far different! Perhaps being born in Minneapolis, Minnesota— where

“all the people are above average” (according to Garrison Keillor)—had something to do with the work ethic of Ray Maier. His ten months spent at the Naval War College certainly qualified as his most interesting work experience. But when he became an active Messiah member, he put on his best work clothes and dug right in.

The following is a list of the many areas Ray has served during his years at Messiah: two terms on Council, two terms as president of Council, two call committees, the Building Committee, Building Finance Committee, communion assistant, eucharistic minister, teacher of both children and adult Sunday school, Confirmation Class teacher, youth advisor, usher and scheduler of ushers, Altar Guild, Fellowship Committee, and scheduler of dinner groups. Last, but not least, Ray has had the distinction of cooking for many church functions, and washing every dish, pot and pan housed in our large kitchen. If asked, Ray is honest about “not really liking to do dishes.” How did he ever find time to golf, read and garden, which rank as his favorite hobbies?

His most memorable moment was his Via de Cristo weekend. He still participates in these regular events. His wife Donna, his family, and his countless friends mean ever so much to Ray. If he ever came across all kinds of time and money, you would find him in the “wild blue yonder” learning how to fly his very own plane.

In his own words, Ray summarizes his life by expressing his appreciation for all of God’s blessings “provided to an unworthy sinner.” Yet all in all, some of life’s experiences have proven bittersweet for Ray. Let this writer quote Ray, who feels compelled to share his recent stance: “I am most disappointed with the decision of the ELCA Assembly. My ‘bound conscience’ will not allow me to work with the ELCA. I am looking forward to a new Synod being formed in August.”

And having offered Ray’s feelings, I conclude!

Editorial note: Here at Messiah, all people are welcome, even those who disagree. We are thankful for Ray’s ministry through Messiah and welcome his contribution to our life together.



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

JULIA DITTRICH, daughter of JON and DENISE DITTRICH, graduated from Austin Peay State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, Summa Cum Laude. She will begin graduate

studies in European history this fall at ETSU.

RUTH and BILL BOYS were on television news on May 3. They were volunteer phone answerers for the American Red Cross and were raising funds for victims of the Tennessee flood.

JOHN BROCK was pictured in the "Happenings around Town" section of the local paper on May 5 with other members of the Knoxville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He was one of the soloists at a recital of Canadian Organ Music at Kern Memorial United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge.

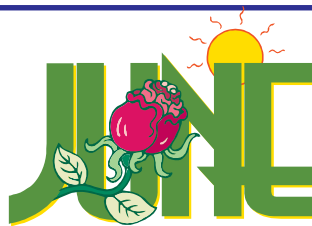
HELEN NEAS has another great grandchild. John Cole IV was born about two months ago and will be called "Johnny" to distinguish him from his father and grandfather.

AARON LINER traveled to New Jersey in April with his ice hockey team to represent Tennessee in the USA Hockey's National Tournament Championship. They lost the first two games to Nevada and Louisiana. Day three was a "do or die" contest against Vermont and they were victorious. However, they lost in the quarter finals to Portland, Oregon. Aaron is one of the youngest players on the team. Knoxville had not sent a youth hockey team to the national tournaments since the 1950's. A highlight of the trip to NJ was a visit to New York City. Ask Aaron about some funny experiences in the big city!

MEAGHAN LINER is ranked as Alcoa High School's number one tennis player. She recently traveled to Stone Memorial, which is outside of Crossville, for a district tournament. Meaghan has made great progress this year since she was the number five player previously.

EMMA GRACE LINER is heading to a national dance championship competition which will be in June in Gatlinburg. She dances with Artistic Dance Unlimited in Alcoa. Her junior company ranked high in Precision, Production and Trio numbers in Atlanta competition which has led them to Gatlinburg.

Congratulations to CLINT KIRK and wife DAWN CONTRERAS on the birth of their son JACKSON ROBERT KIRK who was born April 21, 2010, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz and 20 3/4 inches tall. Blessings be upon this sweet family!



Celebrating in June...

Happy birthday to...

June 1	George Doebler	June 15	Gloria Nelson Denny Blalock Rachel McCormick
June 2	Gwyn Driskill	June 16	Dan Korth
June 3	Jane LaFollette	June 19	Jonathan Driskill Diana Leonard Ryan Wilson
June 4	Ruth Boys	June 20	Ernestine Cobble Nancy Schowalter Dinah Brock Jack Mundell Harrison Alsup
June 7	Dorothy Pearson Kay Keith Martha MacCabe	June 21	Cathy Scheideler
June 8	Joan Danile Cristall Mount	June 22	Patrick Webster
June 9	Paul Patterson	June 23	Roy Biberdorf Cameron Driskill
June 10	Anne Tinker Jon Toth Leslie Sayers	June 25	Robert Blalock
June 11	Paula Voss Alicia Oxendine	June 26	Christine Pardon Tanner Muir
June 12	Anne Bosse Donna Maier	June 27	Jeff Muir
June 13	Heidi Murray Hope Burkett	June 28	Jeanette Haase
		June 29	Aynsleigh Martin
		June 30	Caroline Mann

Happy anniversary to...

June 1	Dave & Louise Redmond (24)
June 2	Bryan & Jenelle Tinker (3)
June 3	Gary & Mary Ellen Whitson (54)
June 4	Marjorie & Bob Michel (62)
June 6	Burt & Helga Wagner (40)
June 7	Mary & Norman Busch (51)
June 9	Bonnie & Don Pederson (48)
June 11	Monroe & Sandy Trout (50)
June 12	Laurie & Harrison Alsup (28)
June 23	Linda & Rob Menasco (9)
June 25	Nell & Robert Blazer (58)
June 27	George & Nancy Doebler (46)
June 29	Carol & Larry Miller (36)

for
JUNE 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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