



the **M**essiah messenger

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



**Come
Worship
with us!**

Sundays in May

Sunday, May 2

9:45 AM - Prospective Member-Disciples
Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Eric.

(See next column for details.)

Sunday, May 9

8:30 & 11:00 AM - Pulpit Exchange

Pastor Kevin Strickland of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Maryville will exchange pulpits with Pastor Eric. Pastor Strickland will preside and preach.

Sunday, May 16

8:30 AM - Blessing of Graduates
(See page 3 to learn about our graduates.)

11:00 AM - Farewell and Godspeed to Vicar John Tirro

Sunday, May 23 - Day of Pentecost

8:30 AM - Confirmation

9:45 AM - Teacher Appreciation
Welcome Reception for new Member-Disciples
Confirmation Celebration

11:00 AM - Receiving of new Member-Disciples

Prospective Member-Disciple Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Eric Sunday, May 2 - 9:45 AM

If you are considering membership with Messiah, please join Pastor Eric on Sunday, May 2 at 9:45 AM in the church library for an opportunity to meet other prospective members; to learn more about Messiah and its ministries; and to ask questions related to Messiah.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Pastor Eric (pastoreric@messiahknoxville.org or 865-588-9753, ext. 12.)

New member-disciples will be received
during the 11 o'clock worship on
Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

PENTECOST at Messiah

This year, the Feast Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 23**.

This Pentecost at Messiah

This Pentecost, May 23, Messiah will celebrate the "Birthday of the Church" during our worship services by affirming our baptism. At our 8:30 worship, we will also confirm two of our youth—Aaron Liner and Kelsey West—and at our 11:00 o'clock worship we will receive new member-disciples.

There will also be an expanded fellowship time at 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall with a reception to honor the newly confirmed, to introduce our new member-disciples and to express our appreciation to our Sunday school teachers.

Please plan now to join us for this festal day.





Vicar John Tirro

Dear people of Messiah,

Thank you for this wonderful internship year. Due to fast-tracking on the candidacy process, it turned out to be an academic year rather than a calendar year, but my, it has been a full one!

Some highlights for me:

1. Working with Cassie Alsup to make poster displays for Advent, to teach about the season, about some of the choices we made in worship (use of silence and simplification of the worship space), and about the Advent wreath and its meaning.
2. Touring the building with Vern Pearson, learning where all the air movers are, and getting to see some of Vern's carvings, especially the one of the liturgical seasons in our welcome area.
3. Working with the Kronaus, Hatchers, and many others to provide hospitality for an Epiphany teaching series, *Life Rhythm: Prayer, Worship, Work, Rest & Play*, about the ways we process meaning and experience God in our midst.
4. Working with Joan McGinnis to create meditation stations in our courtyard for Lent and Easter seasons. Joan, those quilts are lovely - what a gift!
4. Sharing new music, learning something of the rhythms and sounds of the broader church: Indonesia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Scotland, New York, even a few from here in Knoxville!
5. Serving as chaplain at Tyson House Episcopal-Lutheran Campus Ministry. The ministry there is thriving, and I am deeply grateful for your generosity in allowing me to spend half of my internship time there. Please join us for worship some time. We meet every Sunday evening that UT classes are in session, starting with dinner at 6:04, followed by Communion, then dessert and conversation.
6. In all the above, I am especially grateful for Pastor Eric, a wonderfully supportive supervisor and ministry partner.

Thank you all, for letting me try things, for being patient with the learning process, and for being so generous in celebrating the successes! In all this, God has been at work, teaching us, opening us to one another, and leading us step by step into ministry together. As conversations develop toward the future, it looks as if I will be able to stay in the area, and I look forward to continued ministry with you, in whatever shape that may take!

Finally, thank you for being so supportive of my family, as we make this transition together. Every bit of warmth and welcome you have shown is a gift to us, and to the church wherever we might go in the future.

As a parting thought, here is a lovely promise from the apostle Paul: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6) You are very much a part of what God is doing, preparing me to become a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you for this gift. I hope I can pass it along well and faithfully.

In God's grace, together with you,

Vicar John Tirro
Intern, Messiah Lutheran Church,
Knoxville
Chaplain, Tyson House Episcopal-
Lutheran Campus Ministry,
UT Knoxville

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.

Congratulations to our High School & College Graduates!



Leslie Sayers

Leslie Sayers, daughter of Kendall and Debbie Sayers, will graduate from Bearden High School with honors on Friday, May 21, 2010.

Leslie is a four-year member of the Bearden High volleyball and basketball teams, serving as varsity basketball co-captain both her junior and senior years, and volleyball co-captain her senior year.

She is a two-year member of

Student Government Association, National Honor Society, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a one-year member of Key Club and varsity track. She is one of Bearden's Who's Who seniors. An avid volunteer, Leslie coached middle-school and elementary school boys basketball for three years, tutored elementary, middle, and high school students in math, and helped coordinate Food for Kids and Second Harvest fund raising efforts at Bearden.

Leslie plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the fall. She hopes to marry rich so she doesn't have to work. Actually, she hopes to be a physical therapist or elementary physical education teacher.

Courtney Toth

Courtney Toth will graduate Cum Laude from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, on May 8, 2010. She will receive a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Marketing and a minor in Anthropology.

During her time at Berry, Courtney has been a Resident Assistant, VP of Berry Association of Marketing, VP of Logistics of Executive Round Table, and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. She also was an intern at PINK Magazine. In addition to her studies at Berry, Courtney completed study abroad semesters at Stellenbosch University in South Africa and Vrije University in Amsterdam.

Following graduation Courtney will be taking a trip to China. She then intends to work for a time before returning to graduate school to earn an MBA in International Business. Courtney is the daughter of Jon and Cindy Toth and sister of Chase and Alexis Toth.



Congratulations to Leslie & Courtney!

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 the 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 can not commit to a particular time. It is easy. On that Saturday, you will probably be out 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.





CHILDREN'S NEWS

Heidi Murray
Children's Discipleship Chair

Thank you!

Thank you to all the families for donating candy for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Also, a big thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Woody Troy for stuffing eggs and to Mrs. Anne and Cameron Driskill for placing the eggs on the playground for the hunt. The weather was perfect and all seemed to have a wonderful time.

Summer Sunday school to start June 6

The curriculum for summer Sunday school will be a study of the sacraments. Summer Sunday school class is combined 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 welcome and encouraged to bring friends!

Next Children's Discipleship meeting May 6 at 6:00 PM

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Meet us at 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 6 in the church library.

Vacation Bible School

BAOBAB BLAST

Monday, June 14 thru
Thursday, June 17

5:30-8:00 PM



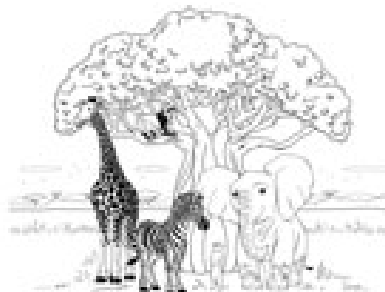
Registration now open!

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.



YOUTH NEWS

Angela Kronau
Youth Discipleship Committee

End of the Year Bash

When: May 16 - 5:30-7:30 PM

Where: Pastor Eric's house
5605 Pinellas Drive, 37919

Who: CrossMark & Luther League youth. Bring a friend!

Why: Because we like you and want to celebrate the end of a great year together.

What you need to bring:

CrossMark: A bag of chips to share

Luther League: Drinks

Mrs. Sayers: Your famous brownies!!!
(Please. We are all smiling big and giving you puppy dog eyes.)

Hamburgers and hotdogs with condiments, paper products and ice will be provided.

Please RSVP to Angela Kronau or Pastor Eric by Wednesday, May 12.

Hint: Dress so you can get wet! There might be water balloon volleyball if weather permits.

CrossMark (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Sunday School

Sunday school meets each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM. Danny Pressley & Debbie Sayers serve as teachers. We meet in the middle school classroom (on the lower level) and use the *Akaloo* curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes, led by Nikki Frye, will be held Wednesday nights, May 5, 12 & 19. We'll meet in the middle school classroom from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Please join us as we celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism of Kelsey West and Aaron Liner on Sunday, May 23 at 8:30 AM worship.

Luther League (HIGH SCHOOL)

Sunday School

Sunday school meets each Sunday at 9:45 AM. We use *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.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday Night Bible Study will meet in the high school classroom from 6:30-8:00 PM on May 5, 12 & 19.

"Break the Fast" Thank You

A special thank you to all who supported the youth at their Break the Lenten Fast Bake Sale. Your generosity helped us raise \$101.25 to go toward Youth Event Scholarships.



Lost and Found

Many items that have been in the Lost and Found for several months were disposed of. However, a few things remain that may have some value to their owners. Following is a list

of these items. If you think you may be the rightful owner, please call Kristin in the church office to claim your possessions:

- Women's Devotional Bible with green cover (has the name Sarah Overholt written in it)
- Student Bible with black cover
- A pair of prescription eye glasses (Chaps)
- Woman's suit jacket, blue and black plaid, size 9/10
- Antique gold ring with diamond
- Eiffel Tower charm



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Eric L. Murray

Adult Sunday school

Sundays at 9:45 am

God's Extraordinary Church: Studies in Ephesians

Ephesians is a message dedicated to helping the church grow God's way yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Ephesians urges us to think in terms of building a meta-church. *Meta* is a Greek prefix that translates as "transform" or "go beyond." It may be opposite of what we expect in a church-building program. In Ephesians we learn that walls should come down, not go up. We learn that the cornerstone is at the top, not at the bottom. And, Christians themselves are the building materials and love is the mortar that joins us together.

Please join us as we continue to explore this book of faith on Sunday mornings through May 16 from 9:45-10:45 AM.

Wednesday LIFE Class

April 7–May 12, 2010 — 6:30–8:00 PM

Resurrection: Did it happen? What could it mean?

Join Pastor Eric for an exploration of this most central claim of the Christian faith. Using DVD vignettes by New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright, the class will explore and discuss the concept of resurrection in the ancient world, the Gospels and the resurrection of Jesus, and the significance of the resurrection for Christian life today.

Be with us on Wednesday nights through May 12 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

Young Adults

Third Thursday Theology Pub

Thursday, May 20, 2010 - 7:00–8:00 PM



6005 Brookvale Ln
865-588-1111

DIRECTIONS: From I-40, take exit 383/Papermill Drive. From the exit, turn/merge onto Northshore Drive. Turn right onto Brookvale Lane into Landmark Center. Aubrey's will be straight ahead.

Messiah's young adults and their friends are invited to join the old guy (Pastor Eric) for a time of theological conversation at Aubrey's (in the Bearden area) on May 20, 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.



Easter Springs Forth

Pr. Eric Murray

All around the world, Christians are rejoicing at the news: Christ is risen, Alleluia! All around the world Easter springs forth. From here in East Tennessee to all around the world, Christians continue to sing their "Alleluias" as together we celebrate the feast of the resurrection.

And we continue this celebration for fifty days. That's right—50! Easter is not just a one-day event; it is really fifty days filled with celebration.

At Messiah, we hope our worship life reflects the celebratory feel of these Great Fifty Days of Easter. And so on Sundays in Easter, do not be too surprised if there are changes in the liturgy. These changes have been made, not for change sake, but for the sake of emphasizing this great celebratory fifty-day season of Easter.

On Sundays in Easter we'll be singing all the old favorite Easter hymns, while also introducing a few new songs. The new songs have been added to bring in a more global perspective (namely in the song "Always" or "Njalo" from Zimbabwe,) and to remind us that our worship sends us out as God's alleluia into "All Our Days." We'll also sing together the Eucharistic prayer using Vicar John's communion liturgy from Tyson House—the version we used here at Messiah during our Wednesday Lenten Vespers.

Easter Day here at Messiah was a great celebration. Now it is time to keep that celebration going through the Great Fifty Days of Easter. Together we will keep building up that celebration leading to the Feast of Pentecost when we celebrate confirmation, receive new members, and join our voices with the global voices of Christianity from all around the world.

Easter is truly springing forth all around the world. Together may our "alleluias" sound forth, joining the voice of God's people all around the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor Eric



Creativity

Joan McGinnis, Director of Music

Genesis 1:27 - And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

God, the greatest creator made us to also create. He made us all in his image. Often, when we are asked about art, we think of the masters, Michelangelo, Monet, Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keefe. These were wonderful craftspersons with paint. Time has proven that their works are still great. We think of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms when we talk about great music. We want to sing the music we learned as a child, or worship in the time-honored traditions of our past. But, even Martin Luther himself saw the need for the new and different as he taught us how to grow in our faith and worship. What an artist he was! Indeed, our worship has been evolving throughout time. The music of your favorite liturgical setting was written only thirty four years ago. Holden's Evening Prayer was introduced to our worship in just the past few years and its composer is actively writing today.

Consider the multitudes of artists living today in the world. We are all artists of something. How many of you marvelous cooks have ever made up a new recipe from what you have on hand? Or decorated a child's birthday cake? How many of you have chosen a paint color for your living room, or even the color of a new car? How many have picked up a guitar or a kazoo and made some kind of sound on it? How many of you have written an essay or taught a class? How many of you have told a story to a child? We don't just consume art, we ARE artists every day.

The week after Easter, I was blessed to attend a retreat at Lutheridge called "Create In Me." This retreat has been attracting artists, musicians, writers, dancers, laypersons and clergy for ten years. It is designed to give us a chance to just relax and play with different types of arts and crafts, as well as worship together. I enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people and having fun making jewelry, wind chimes, butterflies, bubble wands and a hula hoop. You may wonder what that has to do with worship, but it definitely ties in with the spirit in us given by God to enjoy the world around us and to create, no matter the outcome of that effort. There are creative people working today in the world, and indeed in our own church. We don't have to just rely on the great masters of the past. We can worship and grow in our faith through music and art created now, today.

Some of you are artists and musicians who recognize your talents and have strived to develop them. I encourage the visual artists to share their art with our church community by displaying their creations for a short time in the church. We will work together to find just the right place so that everyone may enjoy them. As Director of Music, I want you to let me know when you would like to share your talents during a worship service, or perhaps during a brunch this summer. Let's make Messiah a witness to the artist in us all.

Many of you have told me that you have enjoyed my quilts that have been in the courtyard during Lent and Easter. I thank you for your kindness. While some may not necessarily enjoy the contemporary style of my quilts, I do hope that you have thought about the messages on them. We have been blessed by the artistry of Vicar John through his music, but more importantly through his words and his spirit. Again, the style of music he has shared may not be to everyone's taste, but you can't deny that the Holy Spirit works through his talents.



Thank you, VJ. We will miss you and your family.

Finally a prayer from our own worship materials:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessings,



What if they turn out the lights?

Beth Ford
2010 Council President

Those who know me know that I am a very optimistic person. The glass is always at least half full. The same can be said of our hard working Finance Committee, Pastor Eric, and most of us in this place. We have an abundance of faith, and we have leaders here who are very responsible with our treasure.

That being said, I invite us all to pray for God's guidance, examine our finances and our hearts, and consider how we will continue to do God's work together through Messiah Lutheran Church.

In light of our \$8,000 deficit last year, the departure of some of our members, and the pledges received, our budget for 2010 is \$23,000 less than 2009's budget. No staff received a raise, and the mission and ministry parts of our budget were decreased by approximately \$7,000. There have been unexpected expenses. For example, the unseasonably cold winter resulted in very high utility bills. At the end of March 2010, we had a deficit of \$17,192, compared to a deficit of \$16,655 at the same time last year. The big problem is that the deficit is beginning to impact our reserves. Unlike the federal government, we cannot continue this pattern.

What do we do? Our spending has been cut back just about as far as it can be without laying off staff, defaulting on the mortgage, turning off the electricity, or discontinuing all of our ministries. One solution is to increase income.

In the next few months, we will be looking at how we understand stewardship. A new committee is being put together that will study, pray together, and lead us; the council will take a more active role in discussing stewardship; we will examine the truth that how we use, save, spend and give our money IS an expression of faith; and, we will all seek to grow spiritually together.

We sometimes forget that we are all important, no matter what our gifts. Many of us have struggled with our finances because of the economic downturn. Many of us have struggled with our hearts and giving because of the church-wide assembly decisions. However, we must not forget that everyone here makes a difference every day. Every gift, whether it is time, talent or treasure, is important to what God has called us to do. Small gifts added together can make a big difference. Think about the school children who have given enough pennies since 1994 to build 131 schools in Pakistan in Greg Mortensen's program described in *Three Cups of Tea*.

What will we do if they turn off the lights? We will bring candles. What if we can't use the air conditioning? We will bring and use our fans. What if we can't pay our mortgage? Then we will sell and move to a rental property where God will continue to do good work through us.

God has been faithful and generous to Messiah Lutheran Church for almost 56 years and will continue to be faithful and generous. How will we respond to God's generosity? What of our great wealth of time, talents, and treasure will we joyfully and willingly give so that God can continue to work through Messiah Lutheran Church? I invite all of us to examine our hearts and pray to God. In so doing, I trust that Messiah Lutheran Church will continue to be blessed to be a blessing as it has for more than half a century.

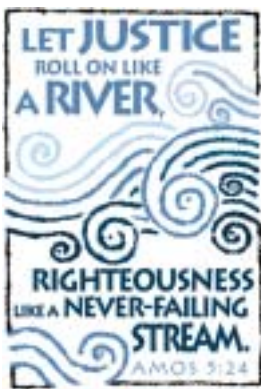


A report from the Finance Committee

Rich Gibson
Finance Committee Chair

In March, for the third month in a row, contributions were not sufficient to meet expenditures, even after expenditures were lowered \$24,500 from last year. Expenses are a little over budget because of utility bills through the harsh winter, but they are expected to average out as the year unfolds. The issue is that contributions are nearly 13% lower than anticipated because so many members are behind in their pledges. We have used \$17,192 of our unrestricted "rainy day fund" to make up the deficit, but we have only \$5,368 left in that fund. **We are really counting on our membership to quickly catch up on their financial support of Messiah.**

March contributions were \$31,684.56 and expenses were \$38,371.13 resulting in a deficit of \$6,686.57. The first quarter income of \$98,319.96 and expenses of \$115,511.83 produced the \$17,191.87 deficit. Our income is \$7,400 less than at this period last year and our expenses are \$6,863 less than they were last year. Our Wednesday Evening Lenten contributions, which we traditionally give away, were \$1,700 and will be donated to the Tennessee mission congregation—Cross of Grace Lutheran, Jonesborough, TN.



A Message from our Council President

Beth Ford
2010 Congregation Council President
Some days, I just have no ideas, and I cannot think of anything to say that is worth sharing. Today was one of those days. I stared at my computer screen. I surfed the internet looking for an idea, some tidbit that would give a flicker of an idea for my letter.

I found my way to the ELCA website which has so much information that it is close to overwhelming. I discovered a gold mine of resources and information about scads of issues. Now I have the opposite problem, too much information.

Last month I wrote about justice and how it is such a difficult concept to define. The ELCA website has a section about justice. It says:

“Doing justice” means addressing inequities in political, economic and social systems. It works to restore relations among people and with the earth to the way God intended them to be. It means challenging ourselves to step outside our comfort zones.

Through programs, ministries, and in our daily lives, we are dedicated to understanding God’s work for justice in the world. We advocate dignity and justice for all people and stand with people in poverty and who are powerless. We lift our voice with forces for good and participate in activities that relieve misery and result in peace and reconciliation in local communities and among nations.

There are examples of how the ELCA is seeking to do justice. (The ELCA is synonymous with each of us.) There is advocacy for the poor and powerless. There is justice for women. There is a search for peace. There are poverty ministries. There are also social statements and social messages to help guide us in our search for justice. There are social messages discussing homelessness and immigration. There are projects in process that are studying criminal justice and human disabilities.

What opportunities do we have to do justice? We do justice when we feed the hungry and homeless at KARM. We do justice when we celebrate the birthdays of those at Lakeshore. We do justice when we give to Lutheran World Relief for the victims of the earthquakes in Haiti and in Chile. Individually, we do justice in our vocations.

The challenge of justice is that it is never done. But let us continue to do our part by contributing our time, talents, and treasure. Pastor Eric listed many ways that we seek to do justice in last month’s Messenger. In the next few months we will have opportunities to focus on causes of social justice through our stewardship emphasis. Hopefully, these were thoughts worth sharing.

Peace,
Beth



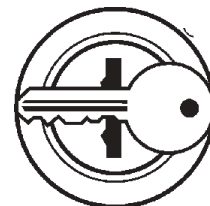
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

from meeting of April 20, 2010

By Doris Featherston, Secretary

- Lenten mid-week offerings in the amount of \$1700 will go to Cross of Grace Lutheran Church in Jonesborough, and will be hand-delivered by a Messiah delegation including Pastor Eric.
- Stewardship emphasis: May - Lutheridge
June - Volunteer Ministry Center
- Norm and Doris Featherston will be Synod Assembly delegates.
- Rick Christian has the membership directory ready for distribution - either CD or printed version.
- Finances: Deficit for March was \$6,686. Unrestricted funds are \$5,367.
- A prayer vigil will be held June 5 from 8 AM to 8 PM at Messiah but you can pray wherever you are!
- The following Finance Committee recommendations were approved by Council:
 1. Close the hymnal, bible and welcome mat accounts and transfer the funds to the Operating Fund.
 2. Make undesignated Memorial/Honorarium funds available to support church operations when the Unrestricted Fund is depleted and income is insufficient to meet expenses.
 3. Purchases cannot be made that will exceed the budgeted dollars in the respective account without Finance Committee review.

Lights out?
Doors locked?



Be a responsible user of our facilities. Please turn off anything you turn on—lights, coffee maker, copier, etc. Secure and lock any doors you have unlocked, and check that other doors are secure or verify that whoever is still in the building will do so. **As you leave the building, check that the door has latched behind you and is securely closed and locked.** Your attention to this matter will ensure security and safety for all of us.

Thank you!



Zachary Parris slated to graduate from Lutheran School of Theology

Zachary Parris, who served as Messiah’s vicar in 2009-2010, is slated to graduate from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago on May 16. The invitation below was

sent to the the family of Messiah Lutheran Church.

We continue to keep Zach and Hannah in our prayers as they seek a call to ministry.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION ANNOUNCE

THE 150TH COMMENCEMENT

OF THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO

SUNDAY, THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2010

2:30 P.M.

EUCCHARIST AND COMMENCEMENT

THE REVEREND SUSAN K. ERICSSON, PREACHER

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
5472 SOUTH KIMBARK AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Are You an Artist?

Do you express your artistic talents in painting or photography, needlepoint or quilting, drawings or calligraphy? Are your works of art already framed or otherwise able to be shown? If so, we would love to *add to the beauty* of our community and building by showing your works of art.



Much like an art gallery, or in some instances bookstores and coffee houses, displays works of art for a period of time, we would love to create a gallery of art by Messiah artists for all to enjoy. We would display your art for a mutually agreed upon time period and then return it to you after your showing.

All you Messiah artists—and we know you are out there—if you are interested, please speak with Pastor Eric.

Community Chest Thrift Store needs donations of items

The Community Chest Thrift Store is a not-for-profit clothing and small household items shop serving all, but focusing on service to those in distressed situations and to those with low incomes. Community Chest is not raising funds for other worthwhile purposes. Their aim is to get needed items to people at the lowest prices possible while covering operating expenses.

They need your help and are seeking donations of good used clothing, and serviceable household items. A collection drive is held every first Saturday of the month. You may bring items to Episcopal Church of the Ascension at 800 Northshore Drive between the hours of 10 and 11:30 AM. Upcoming collection dates are May 1 and June 5.



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: Kari McCluer

Pat Kopp, Reporter

When Kari speaks in her delightful accent, you wonder which Scandinavian country produced such an interesting individual. She will smile when asked this question and gladly cites Oslo, Norway, as her place of birth.

Kari, now 78, has had a most interesting life. Her work in geriatric rehabilitation, being an advocate for the patients, has given her much enrichment. She worked at Shannondale Health Care Center as head of the Physical Therapy Department, and might even be encouraged to share her advice if you approach her with some such problem in this area.

Kari has no pets—but has four grandchildren. Daughter Ellen and Tom Pearson live in Knoxville with their son Anders. Son Paul McCluer also lives in Knoxville. Daughter Betty & Kevin Gifford make their home in upper New York with their three children—Nicholas, Kirsten and Erika.

Mention food and Kari eagerly offers some favorites: roasted ptarmigan in sour cream sauce or smoked salmon with scrambled eggs or RARE roast beef. Kari enjoys traveling, reading, gardening and hiking in her leisure moments. At Messiah, she has served as a Council member, as a Stephen Minister, as shepherd leader, volunteered with FISH and KARM, assisted with the Easter flower cross for many years, and helps out in the Pumpkin Patch. Under possessions, she lists family heirlooms such as paintings, furniture and china which originated in Norway.

On May 8, 1945, she was thrilled to have her father return from a concentration camp where he had been held by the Quislings (Norwegian traitors in collaboration with the Germans) since he had worked for the Underground. We Americans cannot even begin to identify with that! Kari claims that “flexibility and listening” are two of her better assets. But her humor surfaces when she admits that “when I first came to this country, I was trying to cultivate wild onions as I thought they were chives.” Kari wraps up her piece by telling us that she has had a much different life than she expected. She had lived on a farm, came to the U.S. and had to learn to handle the life of a single woman with children. It is obvious that she is rightfully grateful that she has “become the person God meant me to be.”

We are grateful that Kari is willing to share her life experiences with us at Messiah!

Some information on caregiving

A recent 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.

Here are some facts:

- The need for family caregivers will increase in the years ahead. People over 65 are expected to increase at a 2.3% rate, while the number of family members available to care for them will only increase at a rate of 0.8%.
- Women who are family caregivers are 2.5 times more likely than non-caregivers to live in poverty and five times more likely to receive Supplemental Security income.
- Elderly spousal caregivers with a history of chronic illness themselves who experience caregiving related stress have a 64% higher mortality rate than their non-caregiving peers.
- Stress of family caregiving to persons with dementia has been shown to impact a person’s immune system for up to three years AFTER their caregiving ends, thus increasing their chance of developing a chronic illness themselves.
- Family caregivers who provide care 36 or more hours weekly are more likely than non-caregivers to experience symptoms of depression or anxiety. For the spouses, the rate is six times; for those caring for a parent it is twice as high.
- A wife’s hospitalization increases her husband’s chance of dying within a month by 35%. A husband’s hospitalization boosts his wife’s mortality risk by 44%.
- 44 million Americans are responsible for the care of a family member or friend. 29 million hold down full time jobs resulting in divided loyalty.
- Studies reflect that 10-50% of family caregivers are depressed resulting in poor sleep, poor appetite with feelings of irritability, fatigue and hopelessness.
- 30% of family caregivers caring for seniors are themselves aged 65 or over, another 15% are between the ages of 45 to 54.
- 17% of family caregivers are providing 40 hours or more of care a week.
- The value of the services family caregivers provide for “free” is estimated to be \$306 billion a year, almost twice as much as is actually spent on homecare and nursing home services combined. (\$158 billion)

There are hundreds more reasons to prepare or at least think about how one will handle this very special responsibility of caregiving. The concern should not be IF it happens to us, but WHEN it will come into our life.

Watch for more information on this subject in upcoming Messengers. Or request a copy of Mr. Coyne’s presentation from Kristin in the church office.



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

Join us for Bible Study

WELCA holds a women's Bible study on the first Tuesday and the first Thursday of each month. All women are invited to participate.

WELCA Bible studies are taken from *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. The current study is entitled, "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" and is written by Rev. Sarah Henrich, a teacher at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

First Tuesday Circle

May 4 at 10:00 AM in church library

First Tuesday WELCA Morning Bible Study will meet Tuesday, May 4, at 10:00 AM in the library. The lesson is from the May issue of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, Session 9 - "Wise is What is Good." Copies will be available. **Leader:** Doris Featherston

First Thursday Circle

May 6 at 1:00 PM in church library

The Thursday WELCA Afternoon Bible Study will meet Thursday, May 6, at 1:00 PM in the library. Brown bag lunch will begin at 12:30 PM. The lesson is from the May issue of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, Session 9 - "Wise is What is Good." Copies will be available. **Leader:** Lynn White.

Join us for either morning or afternoon Bible study. We welcome you!

Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Program

Remember the cans the children decorated for us to collect pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House-well, they are still available and we continue to collect the pop-tabs. Last year we collected approximately 12 lbs. of tabs. We ask you to place your pop-tabs in the container provided and when full, empty contents into a baggy and return to Messiah Lutheran Church to a designated box (WELCA-Mail Room.) We appreciate your participation in collecting pop-tabs for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House.

Grandfather-Father-Son Banquet

The sixth annual Grandfather-Father-Son Banquet was held on Saturday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. Fifty-six men and boys attended, ranging in age from four to 90+ years. Among our guests were several two and three generation groups and a four generation group. A special treat was hearing Rick Chris-

tian singing and playing his guitar before the meal began. Our guest speaker was Dr. Mark Banker, Webb School history teacher and author of a newly released book, "Appalachian All: East Tennesseans and the Elusive History of an American Region." The book can be found in our church library.

Many thanks to those listed below for making the GFS Banquet a success once again.

Banquet Coordinator: Illy Wood

Meal Coordinators and Preparation: Cristall Mount, Kay Bone, and Stefanie Hess

Master of Ceremonies: Bill Boys

Servers: Donna Maier, Joretta Schneider, Heidi Murray, Anna Murray, Anne Driskill, Amanda Pederson, Bonnie Pederson, Meredith Liemohn, Julie Gibson, Diane Christian, Jenny Adams, Valerie Biberdorf, Mary Busch, Pat Rivera, Treena Wolfenbarger, Michelle Wilson, and Helga Wagner

Drink Station: Barbara Wilson

Nursery Attendant: Todd Frauendienst

Poster: Virginia Young

Computer: Kristin Kennedy and Don Pederson

Ticket Sales: Anne Tinker, Barbara Wilson, Cristall Mount, Stefanie Hess, Illy Wood, and Bonnie Pederson

Brownie Bakers: Doris Featherston, Virginia Young, and Illy Wood

Room Set-up: Bonnie Pederson and Helga Wagner

Decorating: Bonnie Pederson, Doris Featherston, Barbara Wilson, Helga Wagner, Pat Rivera, and Jeanette Haase

Final Set-up: Heidi Murray, Barbara Wilson, and Bonnie Pederson

Hostess: Doris Featherston

Greeters: Barbara Wilson and Pat Rivera

Name Tags: Bonnie Pederson, Jeanette Haase, Helga Wagner, and Doris Featherston

Name Tag Table: Jeanette Haase and Virginia Young

Door Prize Contributors: Illy Wood, Anne Tinker, and Bonnie Pederson

Photographers: Illy Wood, Bonnie Pederson, and Gary Schneider

Clean-up: many wonderful volunteers

2010-2011 WELCA Leaders

Election of officers for the 2010-2011 WELCA Board was held at the April 19th General Meeting. The new slate of WELCA officers is listed below.

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



May 2010

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! We are now in the fifty days of Easter. Praise God! What a joy it is to be able to celebrate it as Easter children.

Cross of Grace celebrated its first Easter. Praise God! Thirty-two people worshipped together. Several were from Our Saviour Lutheran who wanted to be with us this first year. There also were first time worshippers who were invited by people now making Cross of Grace their community of faith.

Holy Week was also a blessing to all of us. Thirty-three participated in The Sunday of the Passion. Fourteen worshipped with us as we commemorated The Last Supper. What was a surprise was Good Friday. Twenty-three worshipped at the Tenebrae service. Isn't that incredible? It's more than we have at some Sunday worship services.

There is no time to rest. When you receive this, we will have had a quarterly "Celebrate Mission" service. It's an opportunity for worshippers, like you, to join in the celebration of a new worship community in the Tri-City area. We will have celebrated on Sunday, April 18.

Also, on April 29, we will have another "Cook-out Cooked-in." This time we will have worshippers who will be inviting friends, neighbors, and /or relatives to join us in an informal setting at the same place we held the first one, The Dining Room, in Jonesborough. There have been several worshippers who have mentioned that they have thought of someone they can invite.

We now have a Parish Nurse, Sharon Barger. She will be providing monthly information presentations at the Jonesborough Area Senior Center, called "Lunch and Learn." The staff at the Senior Center are very pleased we can offer this service.

One of our worshippers is very active with the Multiple Sclerosis organization. We supported their efforts on April 10 when they had their first "Bike for MS." On April 17, many of us participated at Tusculum College on the "Walk for MS."

Ed Wolff, Mission Pastor
1103 Miller Drive
Jonesborough, TN 37659
Cell: (423) 833-8932
Church: (423) 833-8587



Messiah Book Group

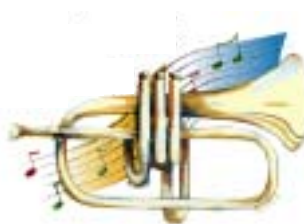
The Messiah Book Group meets every couple months to discuss books. Anyone interested is invited to join the group for one or all of the discussions. The group will

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

- **May 3, 2010 - Discussion led by Mike Driskill**
Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (and Why We Don't Know about Them) by Bart D. Ehrman
- **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



Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

If you are interested in purchasing season tickets to the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra at a 20% discount, please call Gloria Nelson.



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 is running for the State Republican Executive Committee from District 6 in the current election.

LAURIE ALSUP (cardiac business leader) was pictured in the West Side

Shopper News on March 29. She and other staff members were celebrating the opening of the new Chest Pain Center at Mercy Medical Center St. Mary's in the emergency department.

CHASE TOTH was pictured on March 29 with other Boy Scouts in the Bearden Shopper News. His troop was helping to clean up the grounds of the Mabry-Hazen House. It was a workday at the six-acre estate.

SAMUEL ADAMS was recently inducted into the Cum Laude Honor Society. He is a student at Webb High School.

NICK MCCALL was guest columnist in the April 18 Perspective section of the local paper. He's a Knoxville attorney who has written widely on legal, history and military topics. The title of his article was "On the Anvil of History: the Ghosts of Katyn." Nick has traveled through Poland and worked on the Polish equivalent of AT&T.



Notes of Thanks

Hello, there,
There are no words to express how much we appreciate your remembering us with the bag full of goodies you prepared for us!

We have for sure enjoyed all that the bag contained (and no doubt gained some pounds!)

You gave of yourselves, and that means the most to us!

With lots of love to all,
Bob and Helen Schaich



Dear young people,

What a lovely surprise! From the gaily decorated bag and your sweet note to the delicious brownies – wow! I was really touched by your thoughtfulness.

Please accept my deepest thanks. God bless all of you.

Lois Houser



Celebrating in May...

Happy birthday to...

May 1	Chase Toth	May 18	Marie Chistiansen Norm Featherston Misty Anderson Sean Blackman
May 3	Nancye Davis Jim Burns	May 21	Cynthia Toth
May 4	Stephen Scheideler	May 23	Richard Piske Kay Bone Gavin McCormick
May 5	Jonathan Webster	May 25	Courtney Toth
May 6	Sam Steele	May 26	Cheryl Miller
May 8	Lois Sherman Susan Tobey	May 27	Ed Buehler Justin Georg
May 9	Robert Schaich Glenn Georg	May 28	David Camp Astra Cope Andy Tirro
May 10	Virginia Young	May 29	Brodie Blalock
May 13	Lauren Davis	May 30	Ester Lillestolen Hunter Ditmore
May 14	Juda Brown		
May 15	Polly Adams Pete Counce		
May 16	Sandra Counce		

Happy anniversary to...

May 2	Michael & Michelle Davis (12)
May 9	Floyd & Ann Rita Ditmore (24) Jeffrey & Martha MacCabe (17)
May 13	Raymond & Linda Holton (15)
May 18	Felix & Patricia Rivera (33) Roger & Dawn Liner (19)
May 22	Doug & Kristie Marlow (17)
May 24	David & Michelle Wilson (2)
May 28	Derrick & Cindy Hatcher (16) Kent & Carolyn Solberg (16)
May 30	Armand & Christi Wood (18) Pete & Amanda Reckard (1)

for
MAY 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.)

the Messiah Messenger

published monthly by

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Knoxville • TN • 37919

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MAY
2010