



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Messiah!

Weekly Sunday Services

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Education Hour
11:00am Contemporary Worship

Wednesday Lenten Services

5:15pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Prodigal God discussion in Fellowship Hall

Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday of the Passion March 28th

8:30am & 11:00am
Choir Cantata "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Dubois
The New Covenant

Maundy Thursday

April 1st 7pm
Welcome to the Feast!
First Communion
The Covenant Meal

Good Friday

April 2nd 7pm
Stations of the Cross
The Covenant Sacrifice

Easter Sunday

April 4th Resurrection!
7:00am, 8:30am and 11:00 am.
The Covenant Ratified!

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In This Issue

[Pastor Greg's Column](#)

[Stewardship](#)

[Lent 2010 Schedule](#)

[Faith Formation News](#)

[Pastoral Care News](#)

[Parish Nurse News](#)

[Angelfood Ministries](#)

[Women of the ELCA News](#)

[Financial Updates](#)

Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting

Sunday April 11, 2010
9:31am in the Sanctuary
Agenda

1. Receiving of Staff, Ministry team, & organization reports.
2. Ministry Council Election
3. Synod Assembly voting member election

Pastor Greg's Column

Welcome back!

How was your trip?

What was your favorite part?

Thank you for the warm and gracious welcome home you have extended to me! It is true, there is no place like home!



How was your trip? Fantastic! Everything and I had thought it would be, hoped for - and more! So much more! Even with my "mishap" and unintended immersion into Tanzanian healthcare (if you hadn't heard - a fall, a dislocated shoulder and beaten up leg, a day in the hospital), it was a great trip. Our trip leader, Pastor Martin Russell reminded travelers often, "They have an experience of God that we cannot live without!" So true! And it was our encounter with God - in parishes, worship, hospitals, orphanages, schools, religious communities and the ever wondrous gift of creation, which made this a fantastic trip. Thank you again, my brothers and sisters of Messiah for making this trip possible for me!



What was your favorite part? Impossible to answer! Every time I try and think of one thing, I immediately think of another that was just as memorable. The other answer I can give is, "Everything!" But of course that doesn't share the experience with you.

What I can say is this, the most important impression that was made upon me by the experience was just how God's people are able to do so much with so little in a place like Tanzania. It was humbling to see the Church at work. Here in the United States, it seems it doesn't take much of an obstacle to get us to say, "We can't do this or that." If it doesn't come easy or at least with a fairly secure guarantee of success, we won't attempt it. In contrast, virtually nothing is begun in Tanzania with any certainty of the final outcome. Houses and church buildings are started with a vision and one brick. Children are taught with one text book for the teacher and 20 children. People are cared for in hospitals with aging facilities and minimal technology. Disabled children are given dignity and honor even though material possession are minimal at best. And then they look curiously puzzled at us, wondering why we are not able to do more because we have so much more....

What I was re-taught and convicted about was that true success and

fruitfulness in the Kingdom of God isn't directly tied to how much stuff you have. To be prolific in the Kingdom is to be wholly and completely dependent upon the presence and strength of God! It is to live hope filled, generous, and grateful -- no matter the external circumstances.

We know that. Right? It is just that simple. But how hard it is for those to whom much has been given. Lord help us!



"A Night at the Beach" Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

The Senior High Youth want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction such a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day such a great success. A special thank you to Michele Thelen who supervised and promoted the Silent Auction. Thank you also to the Messiah family for your response in offering your time and talents for the Silent Auction. The response was overwhelming! Due to your generosity over \$4700 was raised. All winners and the donors are being notified through e-mail, phone calls or mail. The winners are posted on the easel outside the sanctuary. Make your checks out to Messiah Lutheran Church for the amount you owe and write in the memo line "silent auction." You can place your check in Rita's mailbox, (#3) or in the Admin Assistant (#1).



Free to a good home!

Paul & Beth Jensen have a brand new 7 1/2 foot artificial Christmas tree that is still in the box. Please contact them at 334-2743 if you are interested or know someone who would like a new Christmas tree.

Stewardship

Live the REAL 'Prosperity Gospel'

Move over, Creflo Dollar and Joel Osteen. The "old fashioned" prosperity gospel is back in town -- the one actually described in the New Testament -- and it's got a kickass new sidekick: Science!

You see, before everyone started falling for the heresy that giving is God's sure-fire investment tip that will make God's people rich (or richER), there was a humbler expectation associated with Christian charity.

It holds that self-sacrifice and giving will bring you a wealth of personal satisfaction, social respect, happiness and divine blessing, although not necessarily money (just treasure in heaven).

All of this may register a collective "duh" to those who have taken the leap of faith and tithe to their church; or those who volunteer regularly at a soup kitchen; or those who teach Confirmation classes to junior-high-school youth (God bless 'em!). These folks and others like them have discovered the truth behind their Savior's teaching, quoted by Paul in Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

But now scientists have found something to it.

Medical researchers discovered that when people give to others or even have generous thoughts, it activates the same pleasure center as do selfish acts of hedonism, such as eating, having sex or making lots of money. (You can read the whole report, entitled, "Human fronto-mesolimbic networks guide decisions about charitable donation," reported in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, or you can read Nickolas Kristof's column in the The New York Times. Kristof's is easier to get through.)

"The most selfish thing you can do is to help other people," Brian Mullaney told Kristof. He should know. He left a super-high-income career in advertising to found Smile Train, which helps kids born with cleft palates and split lips.

Now the secular skeptics may argue that the scientific discovery pulls the veil of "religious mystery" off the words of Our Lord and shows that the Christian understanding of charity is just a sham. "It isn't that God blesses donors with happiness," they might say, "it's just a natural neurological reaction!"

Ah, but who created the human brain to respond positively to acts of kindness and altruism in the first place?

And although charity and selfish hedonism both ignite a pleasure response, why is it that greed and selfishness are the norms for our world, rather than generosity? In every country, except maybe for Canada, altruism fights a seemingly futile battle against personal and corporate self-interest. The

predominance of evil and selfishness in our world proves that, as Lutherans say in confession, "we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves."

Faith, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit, unmask self-interest for the evil that it is and teaches us the truth of God's Sovereignty, where the first are last and the last are first, and where the greatest is servant to all.

Invited into God's Reign, we live the true "prosperity gospel," where selflessness and sacrifice bring a wealth of peace, satisfaction and healthy relationships with our neighbors. In keeping with God's design, our neurons and synapses may jump for joy, but do our hearts and souls.

What has been your experience of generosity? Does goodness have its own rewards? Are altruistic people happier than self-centered people?

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Lent 2010 Schedule

On Sunday mornings Pastor Greg will lead us through an understanding of and the uncovering of the Bible's DNA that will change how you read and apply the Bible:

Sunday March 7 The Even Better New Covenant - Beauty Marks and New Names

Sunday March 14 Living in the Authority of the Covenant - Luck and the Firetruck Syndrome

Sunday March 21 Ruling and reigning in the Covenant - Loosening and Binding Prayer

On Wednesday evenings, after soup and fellowship, we will engage the popular parable known as The Prodigal Son, renamed The Prodigal God, with the principles of Covenant and Kingdom. Pastor Timothy Keller, via a DVD study, will lead us in this exploration which promises to help each of us discover the amazing depths of God's extravagant love.

The book, "The Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller and a Discussion Guide are still available. Books are \$10.00 and Discussion Guides are \$5.00.

Wednesday March 3	The Two Lost Sons	Redefining Sin
Wednesday March 10	The Elder Brother	Redefining Lostness
Wednesday March 17	The True Elder Brother	What and Who We Need
Wednesday March 24	The Feast of the Father	Redefining Hope and Salvation

Faith Formation News

Wednesday Night Programming

Reminder: Lent began on Wednesday, February 17. An evening meal of soup, sandwiches and desserts is served each Wednesday beginning at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study begins at 6:30 p.m. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Sunday Morning Programming

B.L.A.S.T -

All 1-6th graders continue to meet each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. beginning in the Drama Room for opening. Weekly room assignments are posted on the display boards hanging on the door to the stairwell and in the lower level.

Little Disciples -

Sunday School for 3, 4 & 5 year olds continues each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Little Disciples Room (lower level). All young people, members and visitors are invited to participate. If you need directions to the room, please just ask one of the ushers, Elaine Chapin or Rita Borgstadt.

Senior High Forums - Senior High youth continue to meet in the Senior High Youth Room from 9:45-10:45 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Confirmation Students - All 7 & 8th grade Confirmation continue to meet in the loft on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Sunday morning Confirmation will conclude on Sunday, March 28.

In April all 8th grade Confirmation Youth will meet with either Pastor Greg or Rita to discuss their Faith Projects. More details will be forthcoming.

Men's Bible Study - Continues each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the lounge outside the sanctuary.

Update on Souper Bowl Sunday

The Senior High Youth raised \$585 during the Souper Bowl of Caring. In addition, the Don & Millie's Sunday for February was designated for the Souper Bowl. A total of \$660.00 was sent to the Project Hope Pantry. The youth want to thank everyone who helped make this project such a huge success.

Beauty and the Beast Tickets

Tickets are available for the upcoming Broadway Show, Beauty and the Beast on Sunday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and the seats are on the orchestra level. If interested see Rita.

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Attention Campers - Carol Joy Holling Camp Brochures are Here!!

Located on the bulletin board are the 2010 Carol Joy Holling Camp Brochures. If you have not registered for camp yet, but are interested, please take a brochure.

Camp site information, registration and fee information is located in the brochure. Some scholarships are available.

Upcoming Events

M.A.R.s - Messiah's Active Retirees

Tuesday, March 2

11:00 a.m.

Hindu Temple

We'll meet at 11:00 a.m. and then carpool over to The Farm Café for lunch. After lunch we'll travel over to the Hindu Temple for a presentation and tour. The tour will have minimal walking so please don't let that keep you from taking this interesting and informative tour. If you need transportation, contact the church office.

Junior High Winter Trip

March 5-7, 2010

6-8th Graders

Ten 6-8th graders and adult sponsors will leave Omaha after school on Friday, March 5 and travel to Minneapolis for a weekend of skiing at Afton Alps, shopping at the Mall of America, nightly devotions and worship on Sunday morning before heading back to Omaha on Sunday afternoon.

First Communion Classes

Sunday, March 21, 2010

12:15 -4:00 p.m.

First Communion instruction classes will be offered on Sunday, March 21, from 12:15-4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for anyone wanting to receive First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Children in the first grade or older who are interested, are invited to attend this class with a parent(s). Lunch will be served. Any youth in the first grade or older who has not had First Communion Instruction will be receiving a letter of invitation with more information about the day. If you do not receive a letter but are interested, please contact the church office. We want to make sure that everyone who is interested is invited. If this Sunday date will not work for your family please contact either Pastor Greg or Rita so that we can make find another time that will work.

We realize that this is a personal matter for each family and so we encourage you to discuss this with your family and then decide accordingly. Should you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact Pastor Greg or Rita.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3, 2010

3 year olds through 5th grade

10:00 a.m.

Friends Welcome!!!!

All the young people of the congregation, friends and the neighborhood are

invited to the 4th annual Messiah Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Senior High Youth. We will gather at the church at 10:00 a.m. and then the kids will be sent out to "hunt" for eggs. (Senior High Youth will stay to set up for Easter Breakfast immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt)

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 4, 2010

Hosted, cooked and served by the Senior High Youth

7:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

The Senior High Youth will once again be preparing and serving the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 11 from 7:00-10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be taken. Please plan to attend and support the youth and have a great breakfast. All proceeds will help support the Senior High Youth Programs.

Vacation Bible School

June 6-9

"High Seas Expedition"

Cost: \$5.00 per child or \$20.00 per family

"High Seas Expedition" is the theme for this years' Vacation Bible School. Are you ready to set sail on a BIG Adventure? That's just what we'll do on our High Seas Adventure, where the journey is the destination! High Seas Adventure is filled with incredible Bible-learning that you can see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the activities that will help us experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love. It will be a great week!! Watch for more information in the next few months.

Registration will begin in May.

Senior High Work Camp

Racine, Wisconsin

9-12 Grades

Cost \$350.00

June 19-26, 2010

Space is still available for the Senior High Work Trip to Racine, Wisconsin. We'll leave early on Saturday, June 19 and travel to Wisconsin where we will spend the night and then on Sunday, June 20, check into camp for a week of work in the intercity of Racine. We'll return on Saturday, June 26. Permission forms are located on the bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall. Don't miss this chance to make a difference for others and for yourself. It will be a great week.

Pastoral Care News

Care for the Caregiver

Our next meeting of our Pastoral Care team will be on Wednesday, March 17 at 1 p.m. in our Prayer Chapel. All members of the pastoral care team are requested to be there so we can take some



time sharing and praying together and have our weekly refresher topic.

New members always welcomed! Give us a call in advance (331-5510) so we can gather information for becoming a member of the Pastoral Care Team at Messiah!

Sue Simmons - Pastoral Care

Parish Nurse News



Have you ever wanted to donate your blood to help others?

Messiah is interested in having a blood drive with the American Red Cross. A sign up sheet for people who are interested in donating blood is in the hallway on the way to the fellowship hall. The Red Cross requires 35-40 people before they will even host a blood drive. So please sign up if you want to- the date will be a Sunday in May. There are pamphlets with information right below the sign up sheet. **GIVE BLOOD AND SAVE A LIVE!!!**

Coming this April, Messiah can be a part of a new exercise program called "Stepping Up to the Plate". This is a 12 week program that is focused on improving your health by keeping track of the number of steps taken each day with a pedometer, which will be given to you, and the number of fruits and vegetables consumed each week. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that proves physical activity and a good number of fruits and vegetables protects our health. Health, then, is not an end to itself, but a means to be the best we can be- to give back to God who created us. **There will be a sign up sheet in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall - I need to place the order for the number of pedometers by March 22.**

Low impact exercise class has gone to 2 days a week!!!!

Mondays and Fridays at 11:30 am in the Little Disciple's Room. Come join us.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month.

If you are 50 years of age or older, you should be tested for colon cancer. Most colon cancers occur in this age group and finding the cancer early helps to increase your odds of beating the disease.

The tests for colon cancer are:

- 1- Fecal occult blood test- checks for blood in the stool which will require further testing.
- 2- Sigmoidoscopy- the Dr can look for growths or polyps that could turn into cancer or areas that need to be biopsied. If not normal, a colonoscopy may need to be done.
- 3- Colonoscopy- the Dr checks for growths or polyps that could turn into cancer. With this procedure, the Dr is able to look directly at the colon with a camera and take biopsies of abnormal areas.

I will have free FOBT kits available again this year through the American Cancer Society. Please see me or Brenda Faulk if you want one.

March also in Nutrition Awareness Month- check out the bulletin board and my table for further information.

Doni Schroeder, R.N. Parish Nurse



Angel food orders will be taken on March 7 and 14 and the cut off date for ordering is Tuesday March 16th at 5 pm.

Distribution date is Saturday March 27th from 9am to 11am at the Ralston Senior Center, 7300 Q St.

angelfoodministries.com

Messiah Women of the ELCA News



Upcoming events

- Metro East Spring Gathering - theme is "Share the Light of Christ: Live, Laugh and Love" April 17th at First Lutheran Church in Blair

- Messiah's WELCA Spring Gathering is April 18th - theme TBD

- Saved to Serve opportunity in Grand Island on May 21, 22, 23rd - They will be refurbishing a group home with paint, paper and love.

- Saved to Serve opportunity at Camp Carol Joy Holling on July 30, 31 and August 1st

- Metro East Autumn Renewal will be September 25th at Bethlehem Lutheran in Wahoo

Financial Updates

	Month(Jan 2010):	Year to Date:
Mission Share to NE Synod:	\$ 3,527	\$ 3,527
General Fund: Receipts received	\$ 43,134	\$ 43,134

Expenses invested	\$ 38,400	\$ 38,400
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ 4,734	\$ 4,734
Fund Balance - General Fund	\$ (15,876)	
Special Ministries Funds:		
Receipts received	\$ 3,172	\$ 3,172
Expenses invested	\$ 7,715	\$ 7,715
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (4,543)	\$ (4,543)
Fund Balance - all special funds	\$ 101,344	

Upcoming Events

The Sunday School kids of Messiah will be serving at the Stephen Center on Friday March 5th at 5:30pm.



March 7 is Don & Millie's Restaurant (84th & Q) Sunday. Dine in or drive thru from 11am to 9pm and mention that you are from Messiah Lutheran Church and the church will receive 20% of that day's Messiah receipts. The money is used to bless the many ministries of Messiah. Tell your friends and neighbors.

Project Hope Needs for March: Canned meat and treats for Easter baskets
March 21 is Project Hope Sunday.

Staff Listing

MINISTERS

You, the Members of Messiah

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Neil Smith, President
Eric Blomberg, Vice President
Sandy Weber, Secretary
Sheila Hansen, Treasurer
Duane Anderson, Financial Secretary

Jayme Wiederin
Tim Zylstra
Paul Blomstedt
Molly Chamberlin

MESSIAH STAFF

Pastor

Gregory A. Berger H: 331-3785 e-mail: pastorgreg@messiahfamily.com

Faith Formation

Rita Borgstadt, AiM Cell: 669-8419 e-mail: rita@messiahfamily.com

Coordinator Pastoral Care Team

Sue Simmons H: 592-6723 e-mail: sue@messiahfamily.com

Administrative Assistants

Diane/Amanda Blomberg e-mail: office@messiahfamily.com

Worship Directors

Bruce Bender e-mail: bruce@messiahfamily.com

Chuck Nash e-mail: chuck@messiahfamily.com

Worship Accompanists:

Sue Simmons @ 8:30A

Bruce Bender @ 8:30A

Vicki Palank @ 8:30A and 11A

Apostolic Coordinator

Diane Blomberg e-mail: office@messiahfamily.com

Sunday School Superintendent

Elaine Chapin e-mail: elaine@messiahfamily.com

Parish Nurses

Doni Schroeder/ Brenda Faulk e-mail: doni@messiahfamily.com

Quick Links

ELCA.org