

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time....”(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). For us at Messiah Lutheran Church it is a time of decision. Sunday August 23 we will gather as a congregation to worship, pray, fellowship, dialogue, and vote about purchasing land, hiring a capital fund consultant and placing our current church building up for sale. While these are the specifics of our vote, it is not the essence or purpose. Our vote as the body of Christ at Messiah is really a decision and proclamation about God’s mission for us and how a church building can serve that mission.

“For everything there is a time...” In the Bible there are two different aspects of time - two Greek words: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* is clocks, calendars, agendas, schedules, deadlines. *Kairos* is infinity, the sacred, transcendence, the Spirit’s time. Over the past three years we have been Working on *chronos* time to help discern God’s call and mission. We’ve had numerous cottage gatherings in home and the church, meetings with an ELCA Mission Investment Fund building consultant, an ELCA architect, building committee meetings, Bible studies, prayer, Sunday forums, newsletter articles and congregational meetings. The elected church council leadership has spent much time to ensure everyone has had opportunity to listen, share viewpoints, and actively participate in the process.

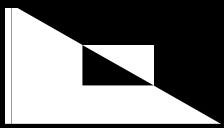
We have spent much time moving toward August 23. That particular Sunday will be *kairos* time. Throughout the generations there have been special times when God has called the faithful to act. These moments are called “*kairotic*” times. It is a time when the Spirit calls you to decide, to act, to step out in faith, to do it! *Kairotic* moments are infrequent and usually much time has been spent leading up to that special moment, and God’s people discern the time to act is now. There are those among us who may feel we need to spend more *chronos* time before making any decision, that we need to make sure all are ducks are in a row, more planning is necessary, and spend more time on the “what ifs”. And there are those among us who believe Sunday August 23 will be a “*kairotic*” moment, that it is time to be like Abraham and Sarah who in response to God’s call stepped out in faith not knowing for sure where they were going; those who say “*carpe diem*” or seize the moment.

I hope and pray each of you will be part of this decision time in the life of Messiah Lutheran. While we will not all see things the same, let us not forget we find our unity in Christ Jesus who is the church’s one foundation and it is his church on earth and in heaven. While here on this earth, as Christ’s body we are Spirit led to be his church in mission, gathered for Word and Sacrament and sent out into the community to live out our faith active in love. So, Sunday August 23 is a time not simply about buying land, calling a capital fund leader and building a new church facility, rather it is a time about the future; God’s vision and mission for us as Christ’s body in the world.

“For everything there is a time”. I encourage you to contemplate, pray and be part of this decisive time in the life of Messiah Lutheran Church.

PASTOR KIM

***“For everything there is a time”***



**OUTREACH**

**Our Breakfast Weekend**

The organizers of the Bikers Breakfast want to thank all who so willingly made the waffles and the sausage gravy, browned the sausages, worked at the event, or donated money. We also want to thank Perry's Campground and Bridgecreek Restaurant for providing the appropriate venues to do this. We were able to serve 313 people a very delicious breakfast .

We were able to make \$1536.58, and we received \$500 from Thrivent to add to this amount, for a total of \$2036.58 for our scholarship fund. In order to accomplish this event we totaled 294 man hours to do this. This included all the planning, cooking, preparing the venues, cleaning up, etc. by so many volunteers. That would amount to \$8.03 cents an hour. Not bad for most of being retired folks!! Plus, we are able to donate \$225.23 to our Baretooth Food Bank. Well done!!

We have some wonderful leftovers. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August we are having a congregational meeting. We are going to have a brunch to have biscuits and gravy, waffles and sausages, and coffee and juice. Please plan on attending to enjoy. these delicious treats.

**Chirstmas Kids Shoppe**

I am pleased to announce that The Christmas Kids Shoppe received a gift of \$500 from the Montana Synod Outreach and Growing in God's Field II Committee. The committee based our gift on Messiah's reliance upon grace as an operating principle and our emphasis on openness and hospitality.

We are hoping to use part for advertising, which we have not had the funds for in the past.

We will send them a report in January of 2010 on how the funds were used and how it has impacted our ministry.

Shirley Overton, Outreach Chr.

**FAMILY LIFE**

**TUPPERWARE PARTY**

**When:** Sunday, Aug 16

**Time:** 9:30-10:30

**Where:** Messiah's Lawn

Shirley Hanson is a Tupperware Dealer from Laurel. All of her products on display will be for sale that day. A percentage of Shirley's profit will be donated to Messiah's Building Fund.

**THANK YOU!**

A Big Thank you to the congregation for the prayer and financial support for the annual Denver Urban Servant Corps Youth trip last month! Highlights included boxing perishable and non-perishable food items, moving them across town and then distributing them to homeless persons; worship at Shorter African Methodist Episcopal church, Bible study, Elich's amusement park and seeing the Colorado Rockies win a baseball game. We really appreciate this experience to live out our faith in Jesus - Katie Atherly, Lydia Buescher, Dusty Downing, Eli Nordstrom and Holly Sorrells.

**Festival of Nations Sunday**

Festival of Nations Sunday - Worship August 2, 8:30 a.m. early service takes place at Messiah and the 2nd service will be 11:00 a.m. at Lion's Park. Come worship as we give thanks for God's gift of all nations singing hymns from around the globe and celebrate Holy Communion at both services.

**Substitute Administrative Assistant**

We are looking for someone who would be willing to be trained in the essential tasks of this position. When the Admin. Assistant is not available (vacation, day off, illness, etc.) there would be someone who could handle the essential tasks such as bulletin preparation. Please contact Kathy Schilling at the Church Office if you have an interest.

**KEEP US INFORMED:** Let the office know if we don't have your birthday or anniversary dates, or if you have a phone number or email address that has changed.



- 8/1— Andrea Holmen  
Norma Alberta
- 8/3—Jeff Gildehaus
- 8/3— Lynn Morgan
- 8/4- Jim Johnson  
Amanda Clardy  
Bill Fox
- 8/8— Scott Reiman
- 8/10— Jeff Clark
- 8/13—Dale Olson
- 8/15—Gwenna Peters
- 8/16— Toivo Lantta
- 8/19—Don Lindall
- 8/22— Abe Thompson
- 8/23—Bill Miller
- 8/26—Dennis Christ;  
Leon Odegaard
- 8/27— Ruth Urban,  
Kim Elsberry
- 8/28— Gina Farnham  
Lynn Schulte
- 8/29—Karen Young
- 8/30— Dan Kyro
- 8/31—Duane Ebel



### Happy Anniversary

- 8/2— Manfred & Marylou Maryott;
- 8/3— Dave & Shannon Downing
- 8/14— Peter & Anne Christ
- 8/18—Jack & Judy Streets
- 8/22—Jane & Denny Chatlain  
Howard & Barbara Marquardt
- 8/25—Pat & Don Peterson
- 8/26— Dan & Jeanne Gainer
- 8/31— Dennis & Kathy Kretz

## WORSHIP OUTSIDE MESSIAH

Join others from our congregation for worship and visit with residents at Beartooth Hospital and Health Center (BHHC) long term care unit and also the Cedarwood Villa. We sing some old favorite hymns, share scripture, a short meditation, prayers and Holy Communion. "Lord when did we see you sick and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:39-40)

Here is the schedule:

- 9:00 AM Monday, August 3  
Cedarwood Bible study
- 3:00 PM Tuesday, Aug 18  
worship at the BHHC.
- 2:30 PM Thurs., Aug 27  
worship at  
Cedarwood Villa.

### **Messiah's Mission:**

**To know Christ; To make disciples; To send out; To make Christ known.**

**Messiah's Vision: To become a growing congregation of Christ's disciples who make a difference by living out our faith daily, active in love.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to be on either the telephone or email prayer chains and are not currently receiving prayer requests, please contact Jeri Kyner, 446-3323 or [jkyner@mac.com](mailto:jkyner@mac.com). To start a prayer request, contact Margaret Tjeltveit at 446-1458 or Jeri Kyner or email [messiahprayers@gmail.com](mailto:messiahprayers@gmail.com). Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dennis Prewett's Mother; Will Anderson; Kathy Schilling's mother Edna Hoffman; and Don Lindall.



## INNKEEPERS FOR AUGUST

Our Innkeeper leaders are Andrea and Bob Holmen. Their helpers are Kurt and Martie Brenne, Dave Jurkovich, Mary Ames, Nancy Smith, D.J. Rosekelly, the Wilkers, and the Farnhams.

Thanks for your service!

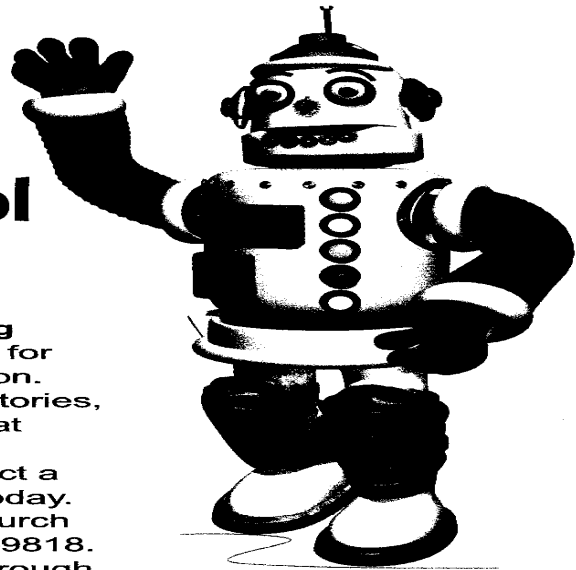
There are a few open slots on upcoming months, please sign up if you haven't done so in awhile.

The Messiah Newsletter is available electronically. If you'd like to go paperless, email [churchoffice@180com.net](mailto:churchoffice@180com.net) or call 446-2430.



## Vacation Bible School August 10-14

**God's Always Doing Great, Exciting Things at Gadget's Garage!** Join us for VBS, August 10-14 from 9 a.m. to noon. Kids will meet friends, explore Bible stories, take Bible challenges, make crafts, eat yummy snacks, play fun games, sing awesome songs, and more! We expect a great response, so enroll your child today. To register, call Messiah Lutheran Church at 446-2430 or Gina Farnham at 446-9818. Open to kids entering kindergarten through 5th grade in fall 2009.



**Messiah Lutheran Church  
19th & Adams - Red Lodge  
446-2430**

### One Tomato Plant

By [Pastor Louise Stromberg](#)

This year I bought one tomato plant so that I could have a few small tomatoes for a salad each week. I expected to pick about a half a dozen a week at most. By the time I remembered to purchase a tomato rack, my plant had grown rather large. So I put the plant around the rack as best I could. Buds were already forming into little tomatoes. The plant continued to grow and I waited expectantly for the sweet, red fruit to ripen.

The first time I went to pick the ripe tomatoes I brought a small bowl. By the end the bowl was filled and overflowing. I took a small zip lock bag of tomatoes to work to share. I went out to pick about a week later and had enough to fill a mixing bowl. I took three bags to work to share.

Not even a week later, I picked two mixing bowls full. This time I brought an ice cream container of sweet, red fruit to share. My tomato plant continued to bear an abundance of tomatoes throughout the season. As I thought about my expectations and the reality of the harvest, I realized that this was a wonderful example of God's abundant blessings. God gave far beyond my hopes. The more I shared the tomatoes with others, the more this plant seemed to produce.

How is this abundance similar to God's love? The more we share God's love and blessings, the more God gives us to share. Whether we share a witness to God's love for us or gifts of material wealth, God blesses all that we share. God never forgets to shower us with continued love and gifts that sustain us and our existence on this earth.

See what I mean?

blessings,

Howard

*“Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body....Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” I Corinthians 12: 14-16, 27*

June, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In fifty days the ELCA Churchwide Assembly will begin. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has called the church to 50 days of prayer preceding the Assembly, and I invite you as well. During these fifty days there will be a lot of preparation for the Assembly. Worship will be planned, resolutions will be fine-tuned, guest speakers will be confirmed, meetings will take place. But what happens in Minneapolis is not all we are as a church.

In the next fifty days, the work of the church goes on. Weekly worship will take place in congregations large and small, rural and urban. Food banks will provide food for the hungry. Nursing homes will care for the elderly. In the next fifty days, new missionaries such as Josh and Susie Magyar will have their initial training and orientation. Outdoor ministries and camps will proclaim the Gospel to campers young and old. Campus pastors will prepare for the opening of school in the fall. In the next fifty days, Vacation Bible Schools will stretch congregations and young people to find new ways to hear and tell the old, old story. “Jesus, Justice and Jazz” will engage tens of thousands of teenagers in a church that is bigger than all of us. In the next fifty days, Lutheran Disaster Relief will respond to crises, Lutheran Social Services will create forever families. In the next fifty days we will be the Church in many places, and in many ways.

Paul’s image of the church as the Body of Christ is meaningful for us, especially as he reminds us how much we need each other. I ask you, in the next fifty days, and beyond, to pray for the whole church, to seek wisdom for the whole church, and to seek the unity of the whole church. I ask you to listen to one another, especially those with whom you disagree, and not to jump to conclusions about what the Church may or may not do in Minneapolis in August.

At the end of our Synod Assembly, when two pastors who had been on opposite sides of the sexuality debates read a joint resolution of mutual trust and harmony, it was a powerful moment, and the assembly concurred. I shared that moment with other ELCA Bishops, and one used it as a “snapshot of new creation,” in his closing sermon at their Synod Assembly.

Friends, let us work together on being that new creation, by God’s grace, proclaiming the Good News to all creation. “Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.” You are in my prayers.

In Christ,

Bishop Jessica Crist

# August 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2 8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Choir Practice <b>11:00</b> <b>FESTIVAL of NATIONS</b> Worship at Lion's Park	<b>3 7:14</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Cedarwood Bible Study	<b>4 8:00 AM</b> Women's Study Group@ Bridge Creek	5	6	<b>7</b> Pastor's Sabbath	8
<b>9 8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>10 7:14</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast	<b>11</b> No Women's Bible Study because of VBS.	12	13	<b>14</b> Pastor's Sabbath	15
<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: AUGUST 10-14, 9:00-NOON, AGES: KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE</b>						
<b>16 8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Choir Practice & Tupperware Party Outside <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>17 7:00</b> Men's Community Prayer Breakfast @ Messiah	<b>18 8:00 AM</b> Women's Study Group@ Bridge Creek <b>3:00 PM</b> BHHC Worship, <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council	19	<b>20</b> <u>SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE.</u>	<b>21</b> Pastor's Sabbath	22
<b>23 8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship <b>11:30</b> Congregational Meeting & Brunch	<b>24 7:14</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>6:00 PM</b> House Church @Street's Home	<b>25 8:00 AM</b> Women's Study Group@ Bridge Creek	26	<b>27 2:30 PM</b> Cedarwood Villa Worship <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Club @ Barb Ochiltree	<b>28</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>29</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Congregational Retreat at Chistikon AUGUST 28-30</b> </div>
<b>30 8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>31 7:14</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">                     Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 PM in the church basement.                 </div>			

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING****Sunday, August 23, 2009****11:30 am – Following 2<sup>nd</sup> Service – Brunch Provided**

After many, many months of research, discussions, input from the people of Messiah and extensive prayer to discern God's will for the future mission of Messiah Lutheran church, it is time to define the next steps. The Messiah Church Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 23 for the purpose of voting on two Resolutions.

All members and friends are invited to attend and participate in the discussion; however, only voting members (18 years & older) of Messiah Lutheran will have the opportunity to vote.

**Resolution #1**

Be it resolved that the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church wishes to purchase the land on Hwy 212 currently owned by the Faithful Land LLC at a price not to exceed \$550,000 and to engage Ann Bailey of Kairos and Associates, Inc. to assist the congregation in a Capital Campaign.

**Resolution #2**

Be it resolved that the Messiah Lutheran Congregation directs the Church Council to place the current building and land on the market for sale.

**BACKGROUND*****Land to Relocate our Facility***

Because our current land is located in a residential area with limited parking and visibility was well as room for expansion, possible sites for relocation was of interest. A favorable site was purchased by the Faithful Land LLC in June 2007 at a cost of \$550,000. The purchasing group has made the mortgage payments and other expenses since the time of purchase. The intent of Faithful Land LLC has been to hold the land in trust for the church for three years, to give the congregation an opportunity to explore their interest in purchasing the land. The Faithful Land investors are willing to sell the land to Messiah Lutheran for \$550,000. The Faithful Land investors are also prepared to donate approximately \$250,000 toward the purchase price of the land. The land has recently been appraised at \$760,000. The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA and First Interstate Bank of Red Lodge are both willing to provide a loan to Messiah Lutheran Church to purchase the land.

***Capital Fund Appeal***

To raise funds for the new land and a new facility on that land, a capital fund appeal is planned to take place in the fall of 2009. After interviewing four potential Capital Campaign consultants, the Church Council recommends engaging Ann Bailey of Kairos and Associates. Ann Bailey would work intensively with the congregation and various teams in a Capital Fund Appeal effort over the next four months. She would then continue to follow our progress on this project for three years. The cost for her services is \$24,800. The cost of these services would be an expense of the fund appeal and paid for with the dollars raised. In the near term, payments for Ms. Bailey's services will be made from the existing Building Fund.

***Sale of Current Site and Facility***

The national average for the sale of church buildings is two years. The potential for sale is enhanced because Messiah's building could be renovated for other purposes and an additional lot is included. In any case, because the asset of the property (appraised at \$350,000) would be part of the funding of the new building project, it is critical to put the property on the market. Should a sale occur before completion of a new building the following could be options to bridge the transition: 1) attempt to negotiate a lease to stay in the current building or 2) temporarily relocate to another community building such as a school or church. No actual sale of the property will occur without a congregational meeting and vote.

***Financing***

It is estimated that with the purchase of the land and a new (approximately) 8900 square foot building, the total project cost would be about \$1.75M of which \$250,000 has already been raised. Proceeds from the sale of the current site (if sold) will apply to the project cost (there is no debt on our current site). Additionally the outcome of the Capital Fund Appeal will apply to project costs and may well determine if the project can proceed in total or needs to proceed in phases. The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA has expressed interest in providing financing for the new building. Their loan terms change monthly, but the current interest rate is 6%. First Interstate has not been approached about financing the building.

Your presence at this Special Congregational Meeting is important, so we hope you will make plans now to attend. We ask for God's guidance that we will be a spirit-led people, continuing to discern God's will for Messiah Lutheran.



## **Congregational Retreat at Christikon**

Messiah Lutheran has scheduled a Congregational Retreat at Christikon Bible Camp for August 28th - 30th.

The tentative schedule is to arrive on Friday evening and stay through lunch on Sunday.

The activities will include Bible Study, Singing, Hiking, Games, Dancing the Virginia Reel, Campfires,

Sunday Church in the Meadow and plenty of food.

The road to Christikon is an adventure in itself. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy this beautiful church camp in the Boulder Valley.

Please sign up now to reserve a spot for you and your family.

Messiah Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 1330 19th & Adams  
Red Lodge, Montana 59068

## **August 2009 Newsletter**

Return Service Requested