

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November is here and three things typically happen: First your P O Box is getting filled with letters from worthy and some questionable charities asking for your monetary support. Second, most churches emphasize stewardship commonly referred to as time, talents and finances. Third, comes celebration of a national holiday - Thanksgiving with it's 4 Fs; fun, food, football and family!

November 2009 at Messiah is different from most previous years. This year we have a duo focus: financial support for our 2010 ministry plan and also financial support for "Light in the Beartooths" as we step out in faith to purchase land and build a church facility. For me personally stewardship has been a faith journey with struggles, doubts, prayer, and scripture. Perhaps some of the following thoughts will be helpful on your journey too:

....Stewardship is about 98% mission and 2% money. Stewardship is not about raising money, rather it's about raising up mission. When a vision is caught, giving money cheerfully flows to support the envisioned mission.

....Develop an attitude of gratitude.

...All that we have is a gift from God and we are stewards (managers) of it all.

....The greatest threat to Christians today is denial of our affluence.

....Having more gives you more to worry about.

....Beware of letting your possessions possess you.

.... ....

...."When we forget Jesus is the bread of the world we start eating junk food. If bread is broken and shared, there is enough for all." A quote from Walter Bruggeman.

.... Scarcity is a myth. God abundantly blesses all creation. We all have many possessions and while sharing our abundance may as Jesus says, be impossible for humans, nothing is impossible for God.

....I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe God has created me and all that exists. God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life...all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true. (Luther's small catechism)

....The lyric of abundance is about taking care of others and the myth of scarcity is about taking care of self.

....Looking at a person's checkbook gives insight into Jesus words "where your treasure is there will be your heart."

....We bring nothing into this world and will take nothing out of it.

....You cannot serve God and money (Matthew 6:24)

....Stewardship is not limited to money. There is stewardship of the earth (Genesis 1:26); of our bodies (Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20); of our families (Exodus 20:12, Mark 7:9-13) of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 4:1, 9:16-17).

....Stewardship is about all of life, giving ourselves to God and using all God has given us in grateful and life giving ways.

I pray that each of us will grow in our Christian stewardship. In closing I still remember the lyrics of a hymn learned as a child: "We give thee but thine own, what'er the gift may be, all that we have is thine alone, a gift o Lord from thee." And today a frequent prayer as we worship God with our offerings: "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Pastor Kim*

*Develop An Attitude of Gratitude*



## **Light in the Beartooths . . .**

**a ministry to expand the mission of Messiah  
by serving entire Red Lodge community**

There are special times in the life of any organization that are both extraordinary and purposeful. "Light in the Beartooths" (LIB) is certainly one of those times in the life of Messiah Lutheran Church. It is no exaggeration to say that what happens during the next two months will determine the course of our legacy for generations to come. Please be in prayer for God's blessing on this ministry. The Prayer Partner program launched on October 24 is a significant step to engage the spiritual zeal of Messiah's people as we continue our LIB journey this fall.

If you have not received an LIB Information Packet by the time you are reading this, pick one up at the church office or call 446-2430 to have one sent to you. If you know someone who is not a member, but you think would be interested, call Kathy at the church office so a packet can be sent. Do take the time to read through the material in your LIB packet—all of it! Pay special attention to the inserts. Complete the two-part Bible Reflection, read the FAQs, explore the sheet titled "Now is the kingdom . . ." that explains how to use assets to fund your LIB gift, and look over the "2010 Annual Ministry" page listing our anticipated costs for the coming year.

Informed people are the most involved people, so a volunteer LIB Messenger will contact you to help you to remember and participate in the following events:

**Nov 7** Prayer Vigil 8:00am–8:00 pm

**Nov 15** Normal worship times of 8:30am and 10:30am at Messiah, plus LIB Rally at 5:00 pm at St. Agnes Church

**Nov 18** Prayer Service at 7:00pm at Messiah church

**Nov 22** Light in the Beartooths Reaffirmation of Baptism Worship services at 8:30am and 10:30am at Messiah. Please bring both the 2010 Annual Giving and the LIB Response forms to worship on Nov. 22.

**Nov 29** Your second opportunity to bring the financial responses to the worship services

Never participated in a Prayer Vigil? Well, you are in for a powerful spiritual treat. Come to the church anytime between 8:00am and 8:00pm on November 7. Plan to spend at least 30 minutes in prayer and plan to remember this experience for the rest of your life!

The LIB Rally on November 15 at St. Agnes will be a highlight of your Messiah experience for years to come. Come for the food and fun and go away with a joy-filled LIB smile on your face that will be the beginning beam of the Light in the Beartooths. On that day you will receive a LIB Response Packet that includes everything you need to complete for your three-year LIB financial response and your 2010 ministry/mission financial response to Messiah.



Prayer Concerns

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Shirley Overton; Pastor Ron Jensen; Margaret Tjeltveit on the death of her husband Alvin Tjeltveit; Joe Johnson on the death of his sister Velma Daum; Bev Urbaniak's daughter Tammy; Mary Ames; Dennis Prewett on the death of his mother Opal; Terri's daughter Annie and her unborn baby and Terri's sons Jared and Urs; Connie Kovach; Jim Koski; Barb Jaquith and Shirley Schilling.

## 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 [messiahpraers@gmail.com](mailto:messiahpraers@gmail.com). Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.

## LIGHT IN THE BEARTOOTHES PRAYER SERVICE

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Nov 18

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Messiah Lutheran  
Pastor Kim and Marietta Johnson will be doing this service.

## "LIGHT IN THE BEARTOOTHES"

Our "Light in the Beartooths" Prayer Vigil will take place on Saturday, November 7th from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Messiah Lutheran. Don't forget to sign up anytime during these hours. Prayer request forms are available in the pocket under the sign up. Pick one up and follow the directions. Any questions call Jack Streets at 446-2140.

## SPIRITUAL LIFE PRAYER

**"Thank you God for being our light and salvation. Our refuge and our stronghold. From the rising of the sun to its setting, We praise your name, O God. For with you is the fountain of life, And in your light we see light." AMEN.**

## SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM

Each Wednesday morning at 8 AM, devote 5 minutes to prayers offered to God for success, as our project begins. No matter where you are or what you are doing at that time, pause to pray with your church family in unison, for a smoothly run campaign with no pot-holes or more serious delays during the building of God's new church in Red Lodge.

## APPEAL RALLY DINNER

**When:** Sunday, Nov 15

**Time:** 5:00-7:00 PM

**Place:** St Agnes Church

There is a sign up at the back of the church for you to sign up everyone in your family that can come. Every family is asked to bring a salad or a dessert. A special program has been planned just for you.

## THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held Sunday, November 22 at 5 PM at St. Agnes with a potluck following. This service is sponsored by the Red Lodge Ministerial Association.





## ADVENT WORSHIP

An Advent Music Program will be held at the Community Church on Sunday, November 29 at 4:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

## TREE DECORATING AND SOUP SUPPER

All are invited to help decorate the Christmas tree at Messiah at 5:30 pm on Thursday, Dec 3, followed by a soup supper.

# November 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum, Sunday School, Choir Practice <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>2 7:14 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Cedarwood Villa Bible Study <b>3:45 PM</b> Confirmation	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study at Bridge Creek	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>7</b> <b>8:00 AM - 8:00 PM</b> Prayer Vigil at Messiah 
Administrative Assistant will be out of the office from November 2-5						
<b>8 8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum, Sunday School, Choir Practice <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>9 7:14 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>3:45 PM</b> Confirmation	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study at Bridge Creek	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> <b>WELCA Bible Study at Messiah</b>	<b>13</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>14</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         Ann Bailey is here from Nov 14-17                     </div>
<b>15 BARETOOTH CUPBOARDS</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:30</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum, Sunday School, Choir Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Appeal Rally Dinner at St Agnes	<b>16 7:00 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast at Community Church <b>3:45 PM</b> Confirmation	<b>17 9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study at Bridge Creek <b>3:00 PM</b> BHHC Worship <b>5:30 PM</b> Church Council at Bridge Creek	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Service at Messiah	<b>19 2:30 PM</b> Cedarwood Villa Worship <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Club at Gina Farnham's Home	<b>20</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Commitment Sunday</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:30</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:30</b> Sun Forum, Sun School, Choir Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Thanksgiving Service at St Agnes Catholic Church	<b>23 7:14 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>3:45 PM</b> Confirmation All News Article for December	<b>24 9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study at Bridge Creek	<b>25</b> OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY.	<b>26</b>  Thanksgiving Day	<b>27</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>28</b>
Pastor's Vacation Nov 24-Dec 1						
<b>2 8:30 Worship</b> <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum, Sunday School, Choir Practice <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Community Advent Service at the Community Church	<b>30 7:14 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>8:30 AM</b> Christmas Kid Shoppe Set-UP  <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith and Light at the Streets			<b>December 3 5:30 PM</b> Decorate the church tree and enjoy a bowl of soup. 	Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 PM in the church basement.	

**WORSHIP OUTSIDE  
MESSIAH LUTHERAN**

You are invited to worship with brothers and sisters in Christ outside of Messiah. Come sing, hear the Word, pray and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Services are 30 minutes.

**9:00 AM** Monday, Nov 2  
Bible Study at  
Cedarwood Villa

**3:00 PM** Tuesday, Nov 17  
Beartooth Hospital  
Long Term Care Unit

**2:30 PM** Thursday, Nov 19  
Cedarwood Villa  
Long Term Care

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study has a new starting time beginning in **Nov.** The new starting time is **9:00 AM.**

**WELCA BIBLE STUDY  
STARTING AGAIN**

All women of Messiah are invited to attend a monthly Bible Study.

**When:** Thursday, Nov 12

**Time:** 1:30 PM

**Where:** Messiah Lutheran

**NOVEMBER INNKEEPERS**

Innkeeper leaders for November are Brooke and Richard O'Brien.

Their team members are Kim and John Elsberry; Jim and Barb Ochiltree; Jean, Chris, and Katie Atherly; Al and Dolly Stuber.

HELP IS NEEDED  
IN DEC. PLEASE  
SIGN UP TODAY.



**SUNDAY FORUMS IN  
NOVEMBER**

Sunday Forum for November (9:30 AM each Sunday)

We'll continue our studies in the book *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions* by Terence E. Fretheim. Please bring your with you books to class. Here is our proposed schedule:

Nov. 1 "What do the Prophets Say about the Future?"

Nov. 8 "Can Prayers Shape the Future?"

Nov. 15 "How Does the Bible Have Authority?"

Nov. 22 "How is God Related to Suffering?"

Nov. 29 "How is God Connected to Violence?"

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

"Money was meant to be our servant. But when we depend on servants too much they gradually become our masters, because we have surrendered to them our ability to run our own lives." Philip Slater, [Wealth Addiction](#)



**11/4** Maren Holmen

**11/8** Lanae Ebel

**11/9** Monica Thuesen

**11/16** Julie Reiman

**11/9** Heather Wright

**11/22** Kellie Christensen

**11/25** Bill Alberta

Zackary Clardy

**BARETOOTH  
CUPBOARDS**

The **third Sunday** of the month is Baretooth Cupboard Sunday. Please bring your food items and the ushers will bring the food basket to the altar during the offering part of our service. Please see the green note by the bulletin board about Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Boxes that our local Food Cupboard provides to anyone in need.



CONFIRMATION class meets Mondays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, at 3:45 p.m. at the church. The fall sessions will focus on the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Youth in 6, 7 or 8th grade are encouraged to participate. Our youth are:  
Molly Kreatz  
Liam Gildehaus  
Vance Thuesen

**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.**

Hearty “**thanks**” to the team leaders and team members for the “**Light in the Beartooths**” Capital Fund Appeal. They have contributed hours of work toward the success of our capital appeal. Please give them your personal thanks when you see them. And, please keep them in your prayers as we move forward.

**Appeal Advisory Council**

Ann Marie Christ, leader  
Pr. Kim Wilker  
Shirley Overton  
Howard Young



**Advanced Giving**

Dennis Christ, leader  
Jack Prather  
John Overton  
Don Lindall  
Andrea Holmen

**Discernment and Assessment**

Barb Ochiltree, leader  
Kurt Brenne  
Leanne Mullaney

**Communications**

Judy Streets, leader  
Kathy Schilling  
Andrea Holmen  
Lavonne Ervin

**Kickoff**

Stan and Gina Farnham, co-leaders  
Jeri and Jim Kyner  
Sharon and Dave Biersdorf  
Bill and Norma Alberta  
Art and Ruth Urban  
Terri and Pr. Kim Wilker

**Spiritual Life**

Marietta Johnson,  
Pr. Kim Wilker, co-leaders  
Mary Ames  
Beverly Urbaniak  
Jack Streets

**Messengers**

Kathy Kreatz, leader  
Harry Hollman  
Jane Chatlain  
Martie Brenne  
Marla Ebel  
Kim Elsberry

**Ongoing Support**

Jim Ochiltree, leader  
Joe Johnson  
Brooke Feister



# Christmas Kids Shoppe

**Dates are set: Dec 5 and Dec 12 from 9 to noon both Saturdays.**

For now Messiah members are asked to find their treasures: great gifts for moms, dads, grandparents, sisters, brothers, etc. Please get them ready. Then take the treasures to the church starting on Sunday Nov 29 and all the next week from Nov 30 to Friday Dec 4. Don't bring the donated items early as we just don't have storage room at Messiah. Also we need people to bake treats/ cookies for the parents who bring their children to shop. Then we will need volunteers to set up the tables with the gifts during the week of Nov 30 to Dec 4. This great outreach from Messiah takes hundreds of hours of work, all labor of love.

**Call Barb Ostrum at 446-4121 with questions and sign up at Messiah on the “Kid Shoppe Chart”. Thank you.**

### Highlights from the October 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Ann Bailey attended the Council meeting and the primary focus of the meeting was a review of the activities of each of the eight "Light in the Beartooth" [LITB] appeal campaign committees as well as the manner in which the annual stewardship campaign is being merged into the process. In accordance with her guidance the Council voted to open a separate checking account and reporting system to accurately track income and expenditures on a monthly and year-to-date basis. In additional action the Council voted to direct all current funds held in "Building Fund" accounts be handled through the LITB checking account and that all LITB commitment funds, as well as any future "building fund" contributions be directed into the LITB checking account.

The Balance Sheet report listed total current assets, excluding church properties, to be \$92,575.23. This is an increase of \$5,038.15 from 2008. The September Profit & Loss Statement revealed a \$1,813.31 positive balance for the month. The Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement revealed a \$397.26 increase in general fund giving over 2008 and a total income to total expense deficit of \$9,976.97 for 2009, primarily due to expenses related to painting the parsonage, LITB "up-front" expenses and expanded support for seminary and college student scholarships.

Council members need to have proposed budget funding requests in by the November Council meeting.

Following the Council's approval, the current church property has been listed with Greater Montana Realty (Harry Hollman, as listing agent). The current church property is listed for \$349,000.

Standing committee reports were received:

**Outreach:** We need to have a new Christmas Kid's Shoppe coordinator. The Kid's Shoppe will be open Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Family Life:** Working on 2010 monthly Innkeeper Leadership teams. The Christmas decorating in the Church will take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kreatz's will harvest the tree. The decorating party will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a soup pot luck supper.

**Pastor's Report:** Confirmation will begin on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Liam Gildehuas, Molly Kreatz and Vance Thuesen will be participating with Pastor Kim, the Ochiltrees and others.

**Worship:** Andrea Holman reported that Jason has indicated his willingness to continue as our accompanist through August 2010.

**Education:** Arrangements for the Sunday Forum have been made.

**Property:** The gutter on the south side of the church and some tree branches in the same area need attention.

January 31, 2010 was given as a potential Annual Meeting date and ratification of the new Constitution was identified as a major issue for the agenda.

Remember, a copy of the Approved September Council Minutes is posted in the narthex of the Church for your review.



## **Office Hours**

**Monday 8:00-1:00**

**Tuesday 8:00-9:00 (Women's Bible Study 9-11) 11:00-1:00**

**Wednesday 8:00-12:00**

**Thursday 8:00-12:00**

**Friday the Office is Closed**

## **WOMEN'S FIELD TRIP**

**WHEN: Friday, Dec 11**

**TIME: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**WHAT: Tour of Moss Mansion at 10:30**

**Lunch at Julianos at 12:15**

**Gainan's at 1:30**

**Mark your calendars.**

**Sign up at church or at Bible Study  
on Tuesdays.**

**QUESTIONS: Call Gina at 446-9818.**

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for information to be included in  
the newsletter is the 20th of each month.**

**Please contact Kathy Schilling at 446-2430**

**or [churchoffice@180com.net](mailto:churchoffice@180com.net).**

**Visit our web [pagwww.redlodgemessiah.com](http://pagwww.redlodgemessiah.com)**

### **LET THE OFFICE KNOW!!!**

**If we are missing your birthday or  
anniversary please let the church  
office know right away.**

**Also, let us know if your address, phone  
number or email address have changed.**

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

## **November 2009 Newsletter**

**Return Service Requested**