

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Sunday August 23 our Old Testament reading included Joshua 24:15. Joshua called all the Israelites together for a meeting and reminded them all that God had done for them throughout the generations. God gave them descendants as numerous as the stars, God gave them great leaders like Moses, Sarah and Abraham, God freed them from slavery in Egypt and now after conquering the Amorite armies they are about to enter yet another land given to them by God. Joshua also reminds them over the centuries and their numerous relocations, there were false gods worshipped by the inhabitants of those lands and even some Israelites fell away from worship of the Lord. So Joshua stands up and addresses God's people: *"Choose this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* The history of God's people always has its primary focus upon what God has done, is doing and will do.

***"Choose this day  
whom you will serve"  
and may we all say  
"as for me and my  
house we will serve  
the Lord."***

However, history also reflects choices God's people make.

Sunday August 23, God's people in Christ Jesus at Messiah Lutheran gathered for worship and a congregational meeting. The congregation affirmed a choice to continue to serve the Lord but in a new location. *Our congregation voted 54 in favor and 1 opposed to purchase land on highway 212 at a cost of \$550,000 and to employ Ann Bailey as our capital fund campaign consultant.* The land is 6.77 acres adjacent to Sam's microbrewery, a modern looking structure. The land is currently owned by 20 some Messiah members whose intent is to gift the monies they have paid on the land to this point, leaving a balance of approximately \$300,000. The land was recently appraised at \$760,000. *The congregation also made a choice to put our current church facility on the market for sale, the vote being 49 in favor and 6 opposed.*

Sunday August 23, 2009 is now written in the history of Messiah Lutheran Church. Now, God's preferred future awaits us. I trust the Holy Spirit has been leading and continues to do so. The faithful saints at Messiah have been serving the Lord at our current location since 1973. New land and a new church facility are tools that will better afford us to use the gifts we've all been given for the sake of mission and serving God and neighbor.

In the meantime, we continue to worship, study, serve, witness, and plan for the future. Consultant Ann Bailey from Hamilton, Montana has already been among us visiting with numerous people and establishing leadership for the capital fund campaign. Everyone will be invited to participate in a variety of ways. As we begin to move toward the land God has given, I ask that each of us pray daily, even just a 10 second prayer, for God's guidance, encouragement and discernment. There is much to be done. There is a new history to make. *"Choose this day whom you will serve" and may we all say "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord".*

*Pastor Kim*

## SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Messiah Church Council wishes to express its appreciation for the strong support shown at the Congregational Meeting on August 23rd. It is an exciting time in the life of the Messiah congregation and although there is much work ahead and many unknowns, it will be easier with your support.

A special thanks to the many of you who have already been involved in the project over the last two years, in purchasing the land, working with the ELCA consultants, researching the financing, working on concept drawings, interviewing Capital Appeal consultants, etc. In addition you have continued with your involvement in the on-going support of the mission of Messiah Lutheran. We are a small congregation and we need everyone involved in this major project. If you have a special interest or concern, get involved. Just let a member of the Church Council know of your interest.

Most importantly, the Church Council needs your prayers.

**“ God, give us eyes to see what you are doing and faith to follow, even when we are not sure where you lead.”**

*President Ann Marie Christ*

### [I Wish You Enough](#)

By Jonathan R. Reitz

A father and daughter prepared to part at the airport. After a hug the father said, "I love you. I wish you enough."

A few moments later, a woman who overheard their conversation asked the father what it meant to wish someone "enough." He said that wishing someone "enough" was a tradition in their family. There was even a short poem attached to it:

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.  
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.  
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.  
I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.  
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.  
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.  
I wish you enough 'hellos' to get you through the final 'goodbye.'

Your stewardship committee wishes all in our faith community "enough".

Howard Young, Chairman



- 9/1— Dennis Kreatz  
Clancy Theade
- 9/4— Harry Hollman
- 9/13— Howard Young
- 9/15— Jean Atherly
- 9/20— Jane Chatlain
- 9/24— Jan Goehringer
- 9/25— Everett Atherly
- 9/26— Mark Mullaney  
Curt Schulte  
Howard Marquardt
- 9/30— Marla Ebel

**Sunday Forum in September**

Sunday Forum meets at approximately 9:40 am following the early worship service. In September we're keeping our schedule a bit flexible, so we can use some time to review the matters acted upon at the ELCA's recent Churchwide Assembly. On September 27, we will observe "Smoke Free Sabbath" with other churches across the state. Jean Atherly will speak to our forum about healthy tobacco-free lifestyles and the newest tobacco control laws taking effect October 1. We will also resume study in our text *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions* by Terence E. Fretheim who is Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary. We always have lively discussions, so please plan on joining us.



**Prayer Concerns**  
*Please Remember in Prayer:*

Opal Prewett; Jesse Stoecker's Grandfather; Edna Hoffman; Don Lindall; Jackie, friend of Andrea and Bob Holmen and Andrea Holmen's cousin Dave; and Alvin Tjeltveit.

**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).

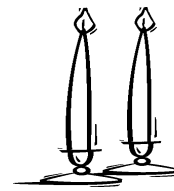
To start a prayer request, contact Margaret Tjeltveit at 446-1458 or Jeri Kyner or email [messiahprayers@gmail.com](mailto:messiahprayers@gmail.com).

Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.

**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.



*Happy Anniversary*

- 9/28—Jack & Lavonne Ervin
- 9/29—Dale & Luella Olson

**Worship With Others**

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.

Here is the schedule:

- 9:00 AM Monday, Sept, 14  
Cedarwood Bible study
- 3:00 PM Tuesday, Sept 15  
worship at the BHHC.
- 2:30 PM Thurs., Sept, 24  
worship at Cedarwood Villa.



**SEPTEMBER INNKEEPERS**

Innkeeper leaders for the month of September are Kathy and David Schilling.

Their team members are Gina and Stan Farnham, Myrna and Herb Hunt, Marietta and Joe Johnson, Bill and Lois Miller, and Karen and Howard Young.

Thank you for your wonderful service!

## Don't Skimp on Your Education

by Judy Streets

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is preparing a social statement that addresses issues in genetics and biotechnology. The ELCA's Genetics Task Force will craft a proposed social statement to be considered by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The task force has produced a study guide entitled "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility." The entire study guide (142 pages) or any of its segments are available free on the ELCA website [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) for online reading or printing. Hard copies are also available by calling 800-328-4648 and asking for ISBN 978-6-0002-2205-5. Cost is \$4.00 per copy plus shipping.

This study is laid out in two parts in order to do justice to both fundamental challenges and particular concerns about genetic developments. Part A addresses fundamental social, theological and ethical themes, while the sessions of Part B engage particular scientific and biotechnological topics in light of those themes. Both parts invite members of this church to faithful conversation, according to their specific interests and concerns. Supplemental resources such as an introduction to the science of genetics are also available as part of the study booklet.

The ELCA Task Force on Genetics appreciates your interest in this study and looks forward to your participation and response. The study includes a response form for your comments to the task force. The deadline for response forms is November 1, either online or by mail.

## Update on Undergraduate Scholarship

We have received a thank you note from Michelle Thompson for the funds we provided toward tuition for her 2009-10 year at Concordia College. By adding a portion of the funds we earned at the Biker's Breakfast plus funds from Thrivent to what we already had in our budget, Messiah was able to forward \$1,000 to Concordia on Michelle's behalf. Concordia will match this 100% (= \$2000). In September Michelle will begin her senior year, and she was most grateful for the help we gave her, especially because of a recent increase in tuition.

She writes:

*"Dear Messiah Congregation,  
Thanks so much for your generous contribution to my education. Your continued support is very much appreciated! I sincerely thank you for your many tireless hours of work and all of your prayers.  
God bless! and thanks again."*

*Michelle Thompson*

## Christmas Kids Shoppe

It is only 3 months before our annual Christmas Kids Shoppe. Please remember us when doing your Fall house cleaning. If you have items, please bring them to the lower level at Church and put them in the South WEST Sunday School room.

Thank you.

## 3rd Annual Women's Retreat

Where: Mary Ames' Cabin

Date: Wednesday, Sept 30-Fri, Oct 2

Time: Leave Messiah at 11:00 PM

Return: Friday at about 3:00 PM

Please sign up at Bible Study on Tuesday at Bridge Creek or at the church office at 446-2430. All women are invited for a fun and renewing time.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT MESSIAH

Vacation Bible School was a wonderful week filled with fun and faith. Twenty five children attended and enjoyed a week of good music, exciting games, yummy food and engaging story telling. We had 19 adults and 4 teens who helped make VBS a fantastic experience. Thank you to all who attended and who helped in so many ways to make VBS such a great success!

Gina Farnham  
Director of VBS



September, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ and Partners in Ministry,

It's hard to believe that when you read this, Anne, the kids and I will already be back in St. Paul gearing up for another year of school. The summer has gone by much too fast and yet we enjoyed every minute that we were back in Red Lodge and especially the time spent with each of you at Messiah. I hope you know how much your gestures of support have meant to our entire family as we continue to answer God's call to be at Luther Seminary. Know that we are very grateful for not only the financial assistance you have provided but more importantly for your deeply felt prayers and words of encouragement.

Over the past year I often found myself bragging to my classmates and professors about the amazing qualities of this small congregation living out God's calling at the foot of the Beartooth Mountains. I'm so proud to be playing a small part in how God is at work through all of you for the sake of the world.

Last year was all about Greek for me and this year it will be Hebrew as my fall semester starts at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> with my first Hebrew class. Fortunately, I already have some classmates stepping up with offers of tutoring and exam coaching. In addition to Hebrew, I'll also be taking a class on worship with Christian Scharen (who was the keynote speaker at this year's Synod assembly). I'm very excited about my course work on biblical preaching with Karoline Lewis and David Lose (who after hearing preach a few years ago, planted the seed for me to come to Luther). As many of you know, I've really come to enjoy the pulpit and learning from a master like Dr. Lose will be a real treat. Finally, I'll be thinking big with Dr. Alan Padgett in my second systematic theology course and a course on ethics. Needless to say, I'll be spending the better part of my days in class and in the library studying.

If you're at all curious about the subject matter I'll be confronting or reading about some of my experiences and reflections while at Luther, I would encourage you to check out my theology blog: [www.eatbreaddrinkwine.blogspot.com](http://www.eatbreaddrinkwine.blogspot.com). I hope to be posting regularly again this fall. Also feel free to email me ([peter@eatfooddrinkwine.com](mailto:peter@eatfooddrinkwine.com)) if you have any other questions or just want to stay connected. Know that all of you remain in our prayers and we look forward to being together again over the Christmas holidays.

+!

Peter Christ

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Eleventh Churchwide Assembly Aug. 17-23, 2009 • Minneapolis, Minn.

The Eleventh Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held Aug. 17-23, 2009, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. About 2,300 people participated, including 1,045 voting members. The theme was "God's work. Our hands."

### Full Communion with the United Methodist Church Adopted

By a vote of 958-51, the assembly adopted a full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church (UMC). This is the ELCA's sixth full-communion relationship and the first for the UMC. The assembly also established a joint commission to oversee the relationship by a vote of 922-15. In 2008 the UMC General Conference adopted the same proposal. Full communion means that the two churches identify in one another a common Christian faith; agree to mutual recognition of Baptism and the sharing of Holy Communion; worship together and recognize each other's ordained ministers for service in either church; express a common commitment to evangelism, witness and service; engage in common decision-making on critical matters; and agree to a mutual lifting of criticisms that may exist between the churches.

### Carlos Peña Re-elected Vice President

Vice President Carlos Peña of Galveston, Texas, was elected on the fourth ballot to a second six-year term as vice president with 580 votes, 60.8 percent of the votes cast. Peña was elected over Ryan M. Schwarz, McLean, Va., who received 264 votes, and Norma J. Hirsch, Des Moines, Iowa, who received 110 votes. There were 97 nominees on the first ballot.

### HIV and AIDS Funding Proposal Adopted

The assembly voted 884-41 to approve a proposal to raise \$10 million over three years to support this church's HIV and AIDS strategy. A \$1 million goal encouraged by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly will be included in the \$10 million. The ELCA Church Council approved the strategy in March.

### Development of Lutheran Malaria Initiative Approved

By a vote of 989-11, the assembly approved continued development of an initiative to fight malaria, particularly in Africa. The Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) is a shared effort with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the United Nations Foundation. The assembly authorized continued receipt of gifts designated for the LMI, and asked that a report and recommendations for a possible churchwide LMI campaign be brought to the 2011 assembly.

### Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," Adopted

The assembly adopted by a vote of 676-338 -- precisely two-thirds of those voting -- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with editorial amendments. It also adopted 15 implementing resolutions by a vote of 695-285. The social statement is a theological and teaching document that builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships. It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices in which trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive. The social statement addresses, among other topics, marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement recognizes that members of this church are not in agreement and identifies the different perspectives that are present among us.

### Ministry Policies Resolutions Adopted

Voting members adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies." The assembly determined on August 17 that majority votes were required on each resolution for adoption. The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order:

**Resolution 3:** Adopted by a vote of 771-230 as amended: "Resolved, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all."

**Resolution 1:** Adopted by a vote of 619-402: "Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships."

**Resolution 2:** Adopted by a vote of 559-451: "Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church."

**Resolution 4:** Adopted by a vote of 667-307 as amended: This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared the intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in [publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships](#); recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that appropriate amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and

approved by the Church Council; and urged that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry.

**More information about the social statement and the ministry policies resolutions is at <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/faq> on the Web.**

#### **Budget Proposals for 2010, 2011 Adopted**

By a vote of 863-71 voting members adopted churchwide budget proposals for 2010 and 2011. For 2010, voting members approved a current fund income proposal of \$76.69 million for the churchwide organization and an ELCA World Hunger Appeal income proposal of \$18.7 million. For 2011, they approved a current income proposal of \$76.78 million and a World Hunger income goal of \$19 million.

#### **Social Statement on Justice for Women to be Developed**

By a vote of 754-176 the assembly approved development of a social statement on the topic, to be considered by the 2015 Churchwide Assembly.

#### **Assembly Adopts Memorials**

+ **Immigration:** Adopted 873-82. The assembly called for comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration policies and processes, called for suspension of immigration raids until reform is enacted, and asked for a message on immigration this year.

+ **Lutheran Disaster Response:** Adopted 929-20. The assembly acknowledged this collaborative ministry of the ELCA and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and acknowledged that a strategic planning process for LDR is underway. It encouraged the ELCA "to continue to deepen and develop its process for working together with churchwide units, synods and social ministry organizations in times of specific disasters." The assembly asked for a progress report to be presented to the Church Council in 2010, and amended the proposal to recommend creation of a permanent LDR advisory committee.

+ **Israel/Palestine:** Adopted 690-125. Voting members resolved to advocate on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. They called the ELCA to lift up the voices within both communities, especially those who are victims of violence. The resolution also calls for care for the people of Gaza, and support for U.S. financial assistance that funds "peace and cooperation for all parties to the conflict." An amendment to the memorial called for the ELCA to "evaluate and refine its peace-making efforts to demonstrate as fully as possible the balanced care for all parties" expressed in the "Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine."

+ **Worship, liturgical materials in Braille:** Adopted 926-10. This memorial called for affirmed and celebrated materials being provided to people with impaired vision, acknowledged funding challenges and limits for this work, and asked for a report to the Church Council in 2010.

+ **Project Connect:** Adopted 919-19. The memorial recognized "the immense contribution of communities of color within and beyond this church," encouraged those involved with Project Connect to share learnings with the wider church, renewed the ELCA's commitment to confront racism, and encouraged review of factors that inhibit people of color from "the fullness of leadership in this church."

+ **Human disability message:** Adopted 785-88. The assembly declined to authorize development of a social statement on human disability, but requested that the Church in Society program unit instead consider development of a message on human disability.

In addition, the assembly *en bloc* referred other memorials to the Church Council or churchwide units for response.

#### **Assembly Adopts, Refers Resolutions**

+ **Health care reform:** Adopted 799-126. The resolution provides that "each person should have ready access to basic health care services that include preventive, acute and chronic physical and mental health care at an affordable cost." The assembly requested that the urgency and sense of the resolution be communicated to Congress and the White House.

+ **Batak Special Interest Conference:** Adopted 845-15. The action strikes from the ELCA's bylaws reference to the "Batak Special Interest Conference of North America," a move supported by Batak members of the Indonesian ministries of the ELCA.

+ **Thanks:** The assembly also adopted resolutions expressing appreciation ELCA churchwide leaders and staff, plus local hosts and the people of the Twin Cities. Other resolutions regarding mission funding, wills and living trusts, and a study on "bound conscience" were referred to the Church Council or churchwide units for response.

#### **Twelfth Biennial Assembly**

**AUGUST 14-20, 2011**

**Orlando, Fla.**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Communication Services

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# September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group@ Bridge Creek	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>5</b>
Kathy Schilling on vacation Aug 31-Sept 6						
<b>6</b> <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>7</b> <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>8</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group@ Bridge Creek	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>12</b>
				Consultant Ann Bailey here Sept. 10-14		
<b>13</b> <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum, & Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>14</b> <b>7:14 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast  <b>9:00 AM</b> Cedarwood Villa Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group@ Bridge Creek <b>3:00 PM</b> BHHC Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>19</b>
Consultant Ann Bailey here Sept. 10-14						
<b>20</b> <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum & Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast at Community Church	<b>22</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group@ Bridge Creek	<b>23</b> <b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE.</b>	<b>24</b> <b>2:30 PM</b> Cedarwood Villa Worship <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Club at Ann Marie Christ's Home	<b>25</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30</b> Sunday Forum & Choir Practice <b>10:30</b> Worship	<b>28</b> <b>7:14 AM</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast  <b>6:00 PM</b> House Church at the Street's Home	<b>29</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group@ Bridge Creek	<b>30</b> <b>Women's Retreat at Mary Ames</b>	Red Lodge AA Meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7 pm in the		
			Women's Retreat Sept. 30-Oct 2			

Highlights from the August 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Additions to the monthly calendar include the following:

Blessing of Backpacks at August 30<sup>th</sup> services.

Sunday School & Sunday Forum begin September 13<sup>th</sup>

Discussion related to the Facilities Development and Capital Fund Appeal centered on the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Congregation Meeting preparation as well as pre-planning for implementing the Capital Fund Appeal.

Kathy Kreatz shared the latest concept drawing from Rev Bill Bentzinger (ELCA's Mission Investment Fund Architect) and discussed feedback from the Concept Development group.

The financial report on the Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement revealed a \$2,110.39 increase in general fund giving over 2008 and a total income to total expense deficit of \$7,475.15 for 2009 versus a total income to total expense deficit of \$1,173.79 for 2008. Whereas, the July Profit & Loss Statement showed a 2009 general fund income of \$8,544.00 versus a 2008 general fund income of \$8,715.00. General fund expenses for July 2009 were \$12,551.29 compared with general fund income of \$8,544.00 for a \$4,007.29 difference. Of this amount \$4,000 was expended for painting the parsonage and the funds for this project were taken from the Mission Investment Fund's Parsonage account.

Standing committee reports were received and action taken, as noted:

Outreach: We are awaiting the check from Thrivent so funds from the Harley Breakfast can be deposited in the church's account.

Education: Judy Streets read thank you notes from Michelle Thompson for the scholarship assistance she has received from the congregation. Kathy Schilling reported on the Vacation Bible School. Pictures from VBS are posted on the Messiah website and an article will appear in an upcoming edition of the Carbon County News.

Family Life: Kathy Schilling reminded everyone about the Christikon Retreat, August 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. She also noted the Annual Women's Retreat will be September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 2 at Mary Ames' cabin.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kim is into the 4<sup>th</sup> month of his Journey of Renewal (ELCA's pilot Wellness Program) and it is engaging for him and the other clergy on his team. He also is in contact with other Pastors in surrounding states who are in congregations similar to Messiah's (i.e., small, recreation-centered, retirement towns) and is developing a vision on how to do ministry in these types of communities. He will be sharing his vision of this at the MT Synod Council when Stephen Bouman (Executive Director for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission of the ELCA) is present. This could be model for the ELCA's mission in similar types of communities across the country.

Worship: The Festival of Nations worship service attendance was 101 and many positive comments were received. The offering collected for the Beartooth Children's Center was \$180.

Property: It was noted that Jim Kyner has finished painting on the new railings; that the playground equipment has been rehabbed and that the carpet had been cleaned following VBS.

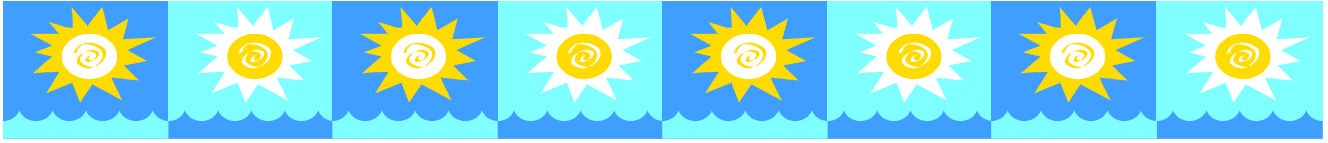
Shirley Overton reported that over \$850 worth of Fair Trade merchandise has been sold since the Festival of Nations event. Following an inventory, we have \$2,071 worth of merchandise (retail value). She recommended that \$364 worth of "hard to sell" items be donated to the Christmas Kid's Shoppe for this upcoming year. The Council voted to support this recommendation and make the donation. There was discussion as to where to market the remaining items and whether to continue our involvement with the Fair Trade project, perhaps on a more limited basis.

Ann Christ has talked with Jean Atherly about providing back-up support for the Administrative Assistant position when necessary. Jean is willing to do this when it fits her schedule. Andrea Holmen and Judy Streets also indicated some willingness to provide support.

Ann Christ presented materials received from Luther Seminary recognizing Messiah for its financial support of a seminary student (Peter Chirst).

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

# Dates to Remember



**Sunday, Sept 13** Adult Forum Begin

**Thursday, Sept 10-14** Consultant Ann Bailey is here to work with Messiah

**Sunday, Sept 30-Oct 2** Women's Retreat at Mary Ames' Cabin

**Saturday, Oct. 10** Women's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Jessica Crist

**Sunday, Oct 11** Bishop Jessica Crist will be our guest speaker at both services

**Saturday, Oct 17-21** Consultant Ann Bailey is here to work with Messiah

**Sunday, Oct 18** Capital Appeal Kickoff with Consultant Ann Bailey

**Saturday, Nov 14-17** Consultant Ann Bailey is here to work with Messiah

**Sunday, Nov 15** Commitment Dinner (Rally) at St. Agnes at 5:00 PM

Messiah Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 1330 19th & Adams  
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## September 2009 Newsletter

Return Service Requested