

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

January 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! A very recent issue of Newsweek magazine cover read “The Decade from Hell” to describe the early years of this 2nd millennium. While a large segment of the population echoes this sentiment, I don’t necessarily agree with the front page quip. I guess it depends on one’s frame of reference. One of my favorite Bible verses is John 1:5 “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” This particular verse promises hope, with Jesus as the light who comes shining in the darkness, even as a bright spot in a modern day dark 10 year time frame. Jesus calls himself the light of the world in the Gospel of John and in the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says to his followers, “You are the light of the world!”

Jesus doesn’t say life is all glitz, glamour and roses. He acknowledges darkness, loss, grief, illness, financial and moral bankruptcy, tough, trying, painful times and circumstances. However, he also promises to enter the darkness with people, and calls his followers to be light in the darkness too.

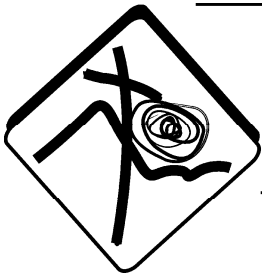
As 2010 begins we at Messiah Lutheran Church are perhaps more than ever called to be light to the world. “Let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and give glory to the Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Here in this place called Red Lodge, Carbon County Montana Jesus calls us to be in mission as

Light in the Beartooths! We are bearers of hope, living out our faith daily, active in love, making a difference as light bearers to individuals and the whole community. We have heard Jesus call and have been responding for more than 6 decades plus this last one living out our faith in ministry and mission in Red Lodge. The light continues to shine in the darkness, praise God! In 2010 God is calling the light to shine brightly, not to hide under a bushel, be courageous, get out there, be more visible, more active, more focused on bringing the light of Christ into the community.

We are now giving of our resources to buy land and build a new church facility in response to Jesus’ call. Our mission is to be light in the world and that’s daunting. Remember “you are saved by grace through faith alone, not of works but we were created for good works which God prepared to be our way of life” (Ephesians 2:8-9). So, I pray we will hold fast as the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. Lead us Jesus, light the path before us, lighten the load, let us shine brightly in this world and into light eternal.

Pastor Kim

***“You are the light
of the world!”***



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WORLD RELIGIONS STUDY

After much consideration regarding the condition our world is in right now, the women of the Tues. morning Bible Study have decided that they would like to know more about the beliefs of other religions. This would promote better understanding and also would allow us to be more compassionate about those who take a different path when worshipping God.

On **Friday, January 15**, at 9:00 a.m. a 6 week class will begin, led by Marietta Johnson, on Religions of the World. The class will be held upstairs at Bridge Creek. The text will cost \$11.55, when ordered in bulk, which will enable you to be well prepared for discussion during the class. The book is titled "The World's Religions" by Huston Smith. The ISBN # is 0061660183 if you want to order the book yourself. We will concentrate on the religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, and a bit on Christianity. This will be a lot to cover in 6 weeks, but it will be a great overview which might cause us to want to study further. Women, men and those who are not Lutherans are welcome.

Please contact Marietta Johnson at 446-4204 if you have any questions.

Light in the Beartooths (LIB) Spiritual Life Team Announces January Schedule:

Sunday Jan 3: Consecration of Gift Commitments to LIB at both worship services.

Come pray, celebrate, give thanks as we consecrate these financial commitments to purchase land in support of God's vision and mission for Messiah to let our light shine in Carbon County and beyond.

Wednesday January 6: Come celebrate the festival of *Epiphany* with a Taize worship service 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. This worship style includes much candle light, prayer, singing repetitive short songs, and brief meditation on words from the Bible. The word Epiphany means to make known, reveal, or shed light on who Jesus, the Word become flesh, is and who we are called to be as his followers.

Monday January 11: LIB Breakfast 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. at the church for men and women. This is the first of scheduled LIB quarterly breakfasts. Come gather as we fellowship with good food and being fed with God's Holy Word in a short Bible study. This first breakfast is sponsored by Messiahs Men's group.

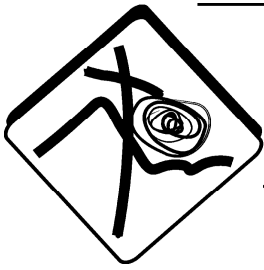


CONFIRMATION meets
Mondays January 11, 18 and 25, at 3:45 p.m. Our focus the first half of 2010 is *The 10 Commandments*. Youth 6th - 8th grades and older who are not confirmed are encouraged to participate.

Don't Skimp on Your Education

by Judy Streets

Questions about the Bible? For those of you who have Internet capabilities, you'll be rewarded if you check out www.enterthebible.org. This free website sponsored by Luther Seminary offers online resources to help you understand and use scripture. Members of Luther's faculty have written excellent study notes on all the books in the Old and New Testaments and details of people and places. There are images of art, maps, and even short videos. The section on "Periods of Time" provides facts of historical events and cultures encountered in scripture. Take a few minutes to visit this user-friendly site. I think you'll be pleased with what you find.



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FAITH, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP:

Everyone who came to the Faith, Fun and Fellowship Christmas party enjoyed great food, great company and many laughs. Thank you to the Christ family for setting up a wonderful area for this event to take place at Bridge Creek.

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, Jan 4
Bible Study at
Cedarwood Villa

3:00 PM Tuesday, Jan 19
Service at
Beartooth Hospital
Long Term Care Unit

2:30 PM Thursday, Jan 28
Service at
Cedarwood Villa
Long Term Care

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.



INNKEEPER LEADERS FOR JANUARY

Our leaders are the Kreatz Family and Jane Chatlain.

Their team members are: Dave Jurkovich and LaVonne Ervin. We need many more willing people to help out with Innkeepers in January. Please call the church office or sign up at church as soon as possible.

HELP IS NEEDED!!!

CHRISTMAS KID'S SHOPPE

Thank you to all who worked on the Christmas Kid's Shoppe. So many have said it was very successful. Hundreds of hours were given in this labor of love. Thank you to all. The tally is reported to be 260 shoppers and 1282 gifts were selected and wrapped. We did receive several donations from community people who said their grandkids enjoyed the event and wanted to contribute to the Shoppe.

Please start collecting treasures for next years Kid's Shoppe. We have a room in the basement of Messiah where your contributions can be stored.

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.



1/1—Dennis Luoma

1/3__ Vince Ames

1/4—Della Christ

1/15__ Don Peterson

1/18—David Downing

1/19—John Elsberry

Leanne Mullaney

1/22—Jack Streets;

Laura Hollman

1/24—Nickolas Clardy

1/26—Richard Luoma

1/31- Mae Karina

CHRISTIKON IS LOOKING FOR SUMMER STAFF

If you are looking for summer work, Christikon is looking for summer staff ages 19 and up. Share something of yourself. Discover something of yourself. Grow in faith and faithfulness. There's a lot in store for you, and for others. Check out the possibilities at www.christikon.org (click on "summer employment").

OFFICE HOURS AT MESSIAH

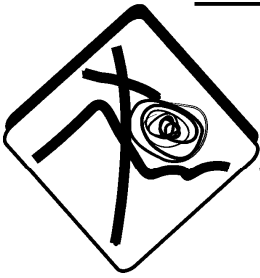
Monday 8-1

Tuesday 8-9, 11-1

Wed 8-12

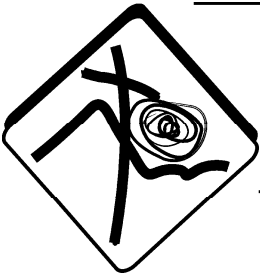
Thurs 8-12

Fri - The office is closed.



January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 PM in the church basement. </div>				1 New Year's Day Pastor's Sabbath	2
3 Consecration of Gift Commitments to LIB at both services 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship	4 7:14 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Bible Study at Cedarwood	5 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek—New study of Exodus	6 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers for Messiah 7:00 PM Taize Worship Epiphany	7	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9
10 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice, 10:30 AM Worship	11 8:00 AM LIB Breakfast at Messiah sponsored by the Men's Prayer group. 3:45 PM Confirmation	12 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	13 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers for Messiah 12:30 PM WELCA Bible Study—bring your lunch.	14	15 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM World Religions Study @ Bridge Creek for all Men & Women	16
17 BareTooth Cupboards Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice, 10:30 AM Worship	18 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Community Church 3:45 PM Confirmation	19 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek 3:00 PM BHHC Worship 6:30 PM Church council	20 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers for Messiah FEBRUARY NEWS ARTICLES DUE TODAY!	21	22 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM World Religions Study @ Bridge Creek for all	23
24/31 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice, 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 AM Annual Meeting at Messiah	25 7:14 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 3:45 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Faith & Light Group meets at the	26 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	27 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers for Messiah	28 2:30 PM Cedarwood Villa Worship 7:00 PM Book Club at Dolly Koski's Home	29 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM World Religions Study @ Bridge Creek for all	30



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“STEWARDSHIP CORNER”

Submitted by Howard Young

THE JOY OF GIVING by Mark Quade

While walking along the streets of my small Wisconsin hometown I found a wallet lying on the sidewalk. I stopped to pick it up and quickly discovered a large sum of money housed in its folds. While I was only 12 years old at the time, even in today's inflated economy the money in that wallet would be a significant amount. Just imagine the thoughts that ran through my mind as I held that wallet. After all, I was a young boy who got less than a dollar a week in allowance.

"What should I do?" I thought. Temptation loomed large. "Oh what I could do with this money!" My heart was pounding as I dove further into the wallet to see if I could find out who was missing this stash of cash. Among the usual wallet cards and papers I found the owner's ID.

It turns out I knew the owner. His name was Tom, a popular high school jock several years older than I. I didn't know him well. I just kind of admired him from afar. He certainly didn't know who I was. After a few more financial fantasies, I went home and rang him up on the phone. I explained that I had his wallet and he could come pick it up.

And here's the defining moment that I remember all these years later: Tom was extremely grateful not

only for the fact that I'd found his wallet, but also that I'd actually offered to return it to him intact. Tom exuded thanks. He offered a reward. I remember his words, "You've given me an early Christmas present." His gratitude certainly wasn't lost on me, but it hadn't occurred to me that this was any kind of a "present." After all, I was just returning to him what was his in the first place. I declined a reward and mumbled something about "the golden rule."

As I replayed the afternoon's events, I knew I had done the right thing, and an uncommon sense of joy came over me. A new "joy of giving" had been stamped indelibly on my psyche. And now, many years later, Jesus' admonishment of how we are to treat others, as recorded in Luke, echoes through the halls of my memory, "for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

At this time of year, we are filled with renewed awe and wonder. This greatest gift of all—the gift of God's son—inspires us to emulate it in some way with our own generosity.

This Christmas let us resolve to give freely of ourselves. When we give to others, we give to God. Acting as God's children we put to use what was never really ours. There is no greater joy!

FROM *SALT SEASONINGS*, DECEMBER 2003
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Sunday Forum for January 2010

On January 10, Sunday Forum will begin a study in the book of Jonah. We will be using the *Lutheran Study Bible* with supplementary handouts. This short, four chapter, book has been described as a little gem, with a strong message that God loves all people. It is written with humor, irony, and wisdom. Please join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

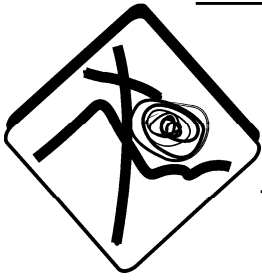
After completing the Jonah study, we will take two sessions to discuss the impact of job loss and unemployment. We'll talk about the hardships that accompany unemployment and how they can be financially and psychologically devastating for individuals and families. We'll consider the question, "How does the church in mission respond to this?"

Schedule:

January 10 – Introduction to Jonah study

January 17 & 24 (& January 31, if needed) – Continue with Jonah study

Following the Jonah study – "The Church in Mission—Impact of Unemployment"



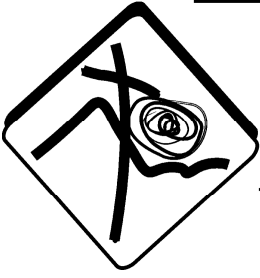
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There are a variety of opportunities to join prayer/study groups at Messiah. All ages are welcome, members and non-members of Messiah are warmly welcomed to attend!

- **WELCA** meets at 12:30 PM on the second Wednesday of the month at Messiah. They follow the study supplied in *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. For more information, call Margaret Tjeltveit, 446-1458.
- **Men's Prayer Breakfast** meets every Monday morning (excluding holidays) at 7:14 at Messiah. For more information, contact Jim Ochiltree, 446-1856.
- **Women's Study Group** meets every Tuesday morning (excluding holidays) at 9 AM at Bridge Creek. We will begin the study of Exodus in January. For more information, contact Judy Streets at 446-2140.
- **Safari Book Club** meets the fourth Thursday of the month and is open to anyone, even those who haven't read the book being discussed. The book for January is Jane Eyre. The group will meet on January 28 at the home of Dolly Koski. Call Kathy Schilling, 446-2687 for more information.
- **Spirit Sisters** meets once a month when members can all agree on a time that works. Most who attend this group have children still at home. They meet in homes or restaurants and in the summer like to hike a bit. Call Jean Atherly, 446-2519 for more information.
- **Youth Group** is for 6th –12th grade will meet occasionally throughout the summer, youth will be contacted when an event is planned. Call Jean Atherly, 446-2519 or Jim and Barb Ochiltree, 446-1856 for more information.
- **Sunday Forum** meets at 9:30 every Sunday in the sanctuary from September through May. For more information, contact Judy Streets at 446-2140.
- **Faith and Light** meets every 4th Monday of the month from 6-7:30 pm at the home of Judy and Jack Streets. This will be a time of Bible study and prayer, conversation and light refreshments for people with special needs. For more information contact Pastor Kim at 446-4466.
- **Cedarwood Villa Bible Study** meets the first Monday of the month at 9:00 am at Cedarwood Villa. This is a Bible study with Pastor Kim and our friends and neighbors at Cedarwood. For more information contact Pastor Kim at 446-4466.
- **New Study on World Religions** will begin on Friday, January 15 at Bridge Creek. See Marietta Johnson at 446-4204 for more information about this new study.



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Light in the Beartooths Ministry (LIB) Report

Sunday January 3, 2010 both worship services will include a celebration and consecration of the three year financial commitment gifts to Light in the Beartooths. Each household has special LIB offering envelopes to start using in January. The LIB leadership team is at work securing possession of the land on highway 212 which will be the future site of Messiah Lutheran Church. God has led us a long way and will continue to sustain and guide us. During these next 3 years our regular ongoing ministries will continue along with an LIB emphasis. Five different LIB task teams are necessary:

- 1) *Spiritual Life Task Team* - This team will help us continue to expand our understanding of stewardship in the context of spiritual development on a very personal basis. Expect varied types of prayer services, Bible studies, healing services, prayer breakfasts, and other programs that will bring spiritual focus to LIB and other ministries.
- 2) *Vision/Mission Task Team* - This group is the long-term vision team for the congregation. They clarify the vision and work toward expanded mission made possible because of the resources provided by LIB. This team will study trends in strategic thinking for churches, gather information, and suggest specific plans needed to carry out vision including staffing, facilities, and finances.
- 3) *Special Events Task Team* - This team identifies, organizes and implements activities to keep LIB before the congregation. Some celebrative examples are: anniversary of the LIB appeal, beginning of a new or expanded ministry, groundbreaking celebration, cornerstone laying, burning of a mortgage, recognizing outstanding volunteers.
- 4) *Communications/Marketing Task Team* - This group provides promotional material, publicity for all events and keeps the congregation informed of all progress of the capital project and the vision and mission that has propelled everything.
- 5) *Financial Growth Task Team* - This team develops the LIB appeal to its fullest potential by monitoring initial responses to assure full payment, following up with LIB donors as is necessary to keep current, approaches new Messiah people to support LIB, and offers optional giving suggestions including additional education on creative giving.

There is much work to be done on the journey to a new church facility to support our mission and ministry. Consider participating in any of the task teams and contact me or council president Ann Christ.

Thanks be to God for this extraordinary time of discipleship building and kingdom expanding. We know that with God all things are possible. Thank you, everyone, for your faithful partnership to the mission of Messiah.

As we move forward please reflect on these encouraging words from Romans 12:11-12 "Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."
Pastor Kim

Save the Date

Sunday, January 31
Annual Congregational Meeting
following 2nd service.

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

January 2010 Newsletter
Return Service Requested