

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

March 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we are fully into Lent, a season where we focus on repentance and the journey with Jesus to the cross. The word repentance means to turn around, to turn away from self and return to the Lord your God. For all of us this means a change of heart and direction and leaving some things behind. I suggest we at Messiah Lutheran Church are poised to step out in faith and leave the old ways of being and doing church behind. We are embarking on a quest, something we have to do, a journey we are compelled to take, not knowing for certain where it may lead or sure how we are going to get there, but knowing it is something we must pursue. We're akin to Abraham and Sarah who "by faith obeyed when called to set out, for a place they were to receive as an inheritance and they set out not knowing where they were going" (Hebrews 11:8).

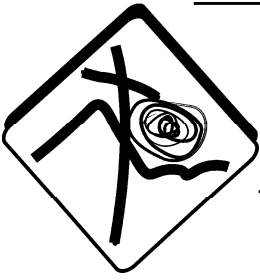
At this time in the life of our congregation through Light in the Beartooths God has provided the resources for us to relocate, and we know where we are going...highway 212, next to Sam's. We know the geographical space where we are going, and moving there will be an adventure, but we are still on a quest not knowing for sure, not absolutely clear where this will take us. I believe we are on a quest to become a "missional church", exploring creatively how to participate more fully in God's mission in the world as the Spirit leads us into those places yet to be discerned. Most of us are rather excited about moving to highway 212! However, there will be loss and grief issues of course: our current building has deep spiritual faith meaning for many among us, the place of a child or grandchild's baptism, a wedding, confirmation, funeral, Christmas programs, fellowship events, worship, etc. sacred memories and sacred space indeed. While we leave behind a building, I'm guessing we'll need to leave behind things even more difficult to let go of.

While reading a book "Introducing the Missional Church" I noted a story about a pastor addressing a group of mainline denominational church leaders at a missional conference: "You know if the 1950s ever come back your congregations are well prepared to respond." So many congregations identity and approach to mission and ministry were shaped by another time and place such as the 1950s period of success for the church. Today, many congregations do not have a clear connection with the contexts in which they now find themselves. The 50s are not coming back nor the good old days when the church held a revered position in the culture. The church used to be the center of communities for social, educational and spiritual life. It was assumed people were seeking out the church. Times have changed! The models of ministry that worked back then don't work today. I hope and pray we won't take those old ways with us to highway 212. Light in the Beartooths is just beginning; it's not just raising up resources, rather primarily about God's mission. I pray this Lenten season we will turn around, rethink our identity and reframe our approach to the mission God has for us.

Let us pray: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden. Through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supports us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Kim

"By Faith Obeyed When Called to Set Out"



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Confirmation

Confirmation classes this month are Mondays, March 1, 8 and 22 at 3:45 PM. Our study continues on the Ten Commandments.

SUNDAY FORUM FOR MARCH

Sunday Forum will continue in March with the same format as in February. The topics are still being decided on.

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES AND SUPPER

During March three more congregations of the Red Lodge Ministerial Association are joining together for worship Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. followed by a light supper. I encourage everyone at Messiah to join in this enriching celebration of our unity in Christ as we worship together in one another's churches. The schedule for March is as follows:

6:00 PM-Wed March 3 Calvary Episcopal
6:00 PM-Wed March 10 St Agnes Catholic
6:00 PM-Wed March 17 Community Church



LENTEN OFFERING: Your contribution to Community Outreach is encouraged during this Lenten Season. Unless designated for a specific church, the offering taken during the community services will go to the Red Lodge Ministerial Association to be used in their community outreach efforts.

STEWARDSHIP

"The church has a long way to go in its efforts to understand and apply a holistic biblical ethic in the economic area. Not only do many clergy not know how to preach an economic sermon; many don't even know why they should. The answer to that why is rooted in the fact that economics was a favorite topic of Moses, Solomon, Jesus and Paul. Many preachers have reminded us that the love of money is the root of all evil, but not enough have explored the ramifications of money being the root of much good.

—Gary Moore in "Faithful Finances 101"

Howard Young, Stewardship Chairman

PROPERTY-John Overton

Please help reserve the space on the south side of Messiah between the **orange cones**. We want to have a drop off area for those of us who need extra care in getting out of our cars and into church. Keep an eye out for anyone needing an extra arm during this wintery, snowy, and slippery season.

FAITH, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Save Friday, March 26 for the next fun event!. Watch for more news soon.

FAMILY LIFE

Church Spring Cleaning

On Tuesday, March 23rd, we are asking everyone to meet at Messiah at 10 AM to give our lovely church a much needed thorough cleaning, sorting, and organizing so it will be all spruced up and ready for Easter morning. Please bring your own favorite cleaning supplies and something to add to a salad bar for lunch. Drinks and greens for the salad will be provided.

Easter Brunch

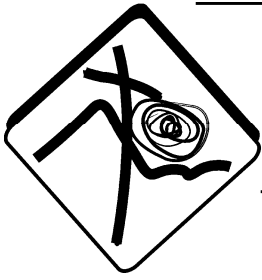
We will be having an Easter Brunch following the Early service on Easter morning, April 4th. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for everyone to

volunteer to bring fruit or your favorite Easter bread. All are welcome to gather for fellowship on this special day.

Funeral Committee

Jeri Kyner and Marietta Johnson are the chairpersons for Messiah's new funeral committee. We will still be asking Innkeepers that month to help but this will take the responsibility off that already busy group for organizing every aspect of a funeral. Marla Ebel has volunteered to help but we are looking for a couple more people who would be willing to make phone calls.

Jeri Kyner, Family Life Chairman



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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Happy Birthday*
- 3/1 Pastor Kim
 - 3/4 Denny Chatlain
 - 3/5 Kirsten Cabanas-Holmen
 - 3/7 Joe Johnson
 - 3/8 Judy Streets
 - 3/9 Frank Culbertson
 - 3/10 Jim Kyner
 - 3/12 Kurt Brenne
 - 3/13 Liam Gildehaus
 - 3/19 Jack Prather
 - 3/20 Richard O'Brien
 - Molly Kreatz
 - Terri Wilker
 - Ann Marie Christ
 - Felicity Cramer
 - 3/21 Alex Thuesen
 - 3/25 Bob Holmen
 - 3/26 Josh Wilker
 - 3/28 Luella Olson
 - 3/29 Pearl Culbertson
 - 3/30 Stan Farnham

MARCH INNKEEPERS

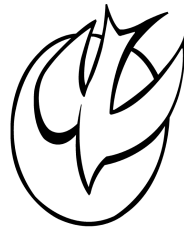


Innkeeper leaders for March are Dolly and Jim Koski. Their team members are Dave Jurkovich, Sharon and Dave Biersdorf, Karen and Howard Young and Shirley and John Overton. Thank you for your service to Messiah.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 8—Pastor Kim & Terri Wilker

March 17—Frank & Pearl Culbertson



Please Remember In Prayer

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Overton;
 Connie Kovach;
 Barb Jaquith;
 Judy Canfield
 Henry; Bob

Holmen's mother Edna Holmen; Don Lindall's family & Lois Miller's family on the death of their sister Judy Lindall-Hawkins; Bev Urbaniak's nephew Bruce Gilmer and Stan Farnham's mother Eva Farnham; Art Urban; Monica Thuesen's Mother; Pat and Don Peterson's son Byron Peterson and Sigrid Timonen.

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 at 446-3323 or jkyner@mac.com To start a prayer request, contact Margaret Tjeltveit at 446-1458 or Jeri Kyner or email messiahprayers@gmail.com Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.

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, Mar. 1

Bible Study at Cedarwood Villa

3:00 PM Tuesday, Mar. 9

Service at Beartooth Hospital Long Term Care Unit

2:30 PM Thursday, Mar. 25

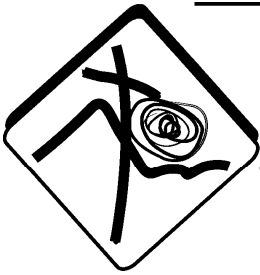
Service at Cedarwood Villa

THANK YOU EVERYONE:

Many thanks to the kind, caring community of Messiah and Pastor Kim during this sad time of our sister's death. The outpouring of love and concern shown by so many in cards, calls, and food was overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Linda & Don Lindall and Lois & Bill Miller.



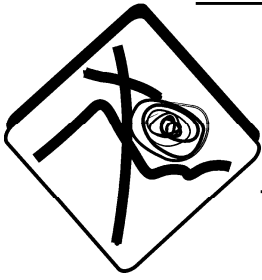
For March the Safari Book Club will be reading the book called **Anna "Woman of Miracles" by Vivian VanVick**. We will be meeting at Jeri Kyner's home on Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 PM. Please join us for an enjoyable time. Let Kathy Schilling (425-1644) know if you would like to be added to the book club list.



March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:14 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Bible Study at Cedarwood 3:45 PM Confirmation	2 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	3 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 12:30 PM WELCA 6:00 PM Lenten service @ Episcopal Church	4	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6
7 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship	8 7:14 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 3:45 PM Confirmation	9 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek 3:00 PM BHHC Worship	10 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 6:00 PM Lenten Service @ St. Agnes Church	11	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13
14 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS STARTS TODAY 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship	15 7:00 AM Men's Community Prayer Breakfast at Messiah Church	16 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek 3:00 PM Church council	17 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 6:00 PM Lenten Service @ Community Church	18 <u>News Articles Are Due For April</u>	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20
21 BareTooth Cupboards Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Vision/ Mission Team Mtg.	22 7:14 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 3:45 PM Confirmation	23 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Messiah 10:00 AM Spring cleaning of the church followed by salad lunch. Bring something to add to the salad.	24 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers for Messiah	25 2:30 PM Cedarwood Villa Worship 7:00 PM Book Club at Jeri Kyner's Home	26 Faith, Fun and Fellowship Sur- prise!!! Watch for details. Pastor's Sabbath	27
28 Palm Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Sunday School & Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship	29 7:14 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 PM Faith and Light at the Streets	30	31	April 1 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM Seder Meal	Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 PM in the basement of Messiah.	

Kathy will be out of office from Mar 10-17
Pastor Kim will be on vacation from Mar 13- 18



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Christikon Clips

March, 2010

Information for our Congregations



Youth campers, don't miss out on the **Early Registration Discount: Register before March 15 and save \$25 in any youth session.** There's an even greater savings for youth finishing grades 6-8 who **register by March 15 for the June 22-28 Prospectors** session on-site: a discount of **\$75!** See information that came in the mailed youth brochure on how to make use of this offer.

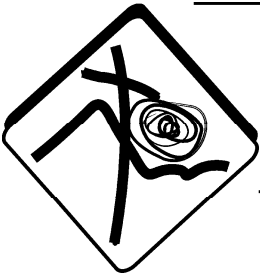
Youth campers: Bring a friend to camp with you for free (well, nearly). Bring a friend who has never been a Christikon youth camper before. You pay the regular camp fee (or the discounted fee if you register before March 15); your friend pays only the \$50 deposit.

Adults and families: Check out the special focus for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, discipleship training, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, re-creation, folk dancing, and much more.

You can now register for a camp session on-line, or apply for a summer staff position on-line, or make a gift on-line to Christikon. Go to our home page at www.christikon.org, and click on the appropriate links. You'll find a lot of information about Christikon, including forms to register for youth or family/adult camp sessions. And at the secure gifts/payments site, you can use your credit card or an electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account to pay the pre-registration fee or full camp fee for any session, or to contribute directly to the Christikon ministry.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • christikon@aol.com • www.christikon.org



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LIGHT IN THE BEARTOOTHS (LIB) MINISTRY UPDATE

During our recent annual congregation meeting 40 some people broke into small groups and addressed the following two questions. The discussion included a multitude of ideas with 80 some recorded responses! Following are the major themes and most mentioned:

Q. What do you need from a new building?

- A. A welcoming inviting spacious entry way & gathering place
Flexible Multi Purpose spaces
Think “big” on space
Handicap accessible throughout
Functional, well equipped large kitchen
Adequate parking
Green building, nice landscaping, drill a well
Not too “churchy” of a building
Good lighting
Covered exterior entryway
Adequate office space
Worship space a priority
Meeting Rooms
Up to Date Technology, e.g. sound, computer, multi-media

Q. What do you see the community needs for a new building?

- A. Retreat Facilities for Youth and Adults
Space enough for multiple community &

church events/forums at same time

Community gathering Space/Center

Space for Cultural/Arts/Concerts Events

Parish Nurse Ministry

Food and clothing Bank

Life Long learning Center

Space for Youth activities

Use of land e.g. Recreation, Garden Plots, Labyrinth

Community Training/Education Center

LIB VISION/MISSION TEAM

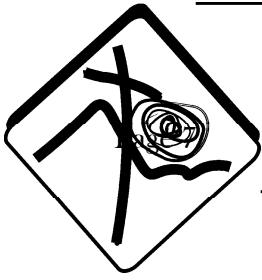
This team met for the first time Sunday, Feb. 21. Our focus was to get to know one another and the various gifts/strengths of each person. The Bible study was on 1 Corinthians 12 where St. Paul reminds us that God gives each of us different gifts to be used for the sake of the body and community. Also, we are all the body of Christ and individual members of it, every member important and valued, called to work together. Our LIB vision/mission team represents a broad range of many gifts/talents, vocations, interests and passions. Team members are: Vince Ames, Jean Atherly, Martha Brown, Shannon Downing, Lavon Ervin, Jeff Gildehaus, Jim Johnson, Kathy Kreatz, Jim Kyner, Leanne Mullaney, Barb Ochiltree, Shirley Overton, Al Stuber, Terri Wilker, Barb Wright, Pastor Kim. Next month's meeting is March 21, 1:00 p.m. with conversation on being a “missional congregation” led by Jim Johnson and guest Rev. David Peters, Director for Evangelical Mission, Montana Synod.

“NO ONE DIES ALONE” Comfort Care Vigil Ministry

“And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.” Abraham Lincoln

At St. John's Lutheran Ministries we are committed to our mission: providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of *hope, dignity and love*. We find ourselves providing those opportunities even in death. Because of this, we have formed the Comfort Care Vigil Ministry. When caregivers identify signs that a resident is close to death, the staff converge to establish a team of volunteers to sit with the resident – 24 hours a day – until the time of death.

Residents' families who have chosen to be a part of this ministry have felt very blessed by the care and comfort offered to their loved one. This opportunity has had a special impact on the volunteers as well. Vigil Team members are residents, employees and community members. These are people who share of themselves around the clock, to stay with a resident for two-hour intervals. If you are interested in this ministry, please plan to attend a training scheduled for Thursday, March 11th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ocee Johnson Chapel. For more information please call Pastor Troy Ley #655-5631.



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Highlights from the February 16th Council Meeting

President Christ reported that she & Jim Ochiltree have met with Rick Bruner (First Interstate Bank of Red Lodge) to initiate the loan process for the Hwy 212 land, and that she has contacted the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund (MIF) to notify them that we will be using a local lender for our land purchase. The representative from the MIF indicated that they were interested in bidding on a future loan when we move into a facility building program. There was also discussion during the meeting about how to maintain a "presence" on the land during the summer. Ideas will be solicited and discussed.

Pastor Wilker discussed the initial meeting of the Vision/Mission Team. Team members are: Vince Ames, Jean Atherly, Martha Brown, Shannon Downing, Lavon Ervin, Jeff Gildehaus, Jim Johnson, Kathy Kreatz, Jim Kyner, Leanne Mullaney, Barb Ochiltree, Shirley Overton, Al Stuber, Terri Wilker & Barb Wright. Future foci for this group will be on understanding the "missional church" and the "walk about process" for understanding community needs.

In committee reports, Judy Streets informed the Council that Atonement Lutheran Church (Billings Heights) will be sharing ELCA vacation Bible school materials with us this summer. Jeri Kyner reminded everyone of the continuing need for volunteers to serve as Innkeepers. During the report from Property Management, the issue of allowing appropriate "drop-off" and "pick-up" access on the 19th street side of the church was discussed and notice will be shared with the congregation.

Bill Miller reviewed the January 2010 Balance Sheet and noted the increased totals are the result of the Hwy 212 land being incorporated into the assets & liabilities. The January 2010 Profit and Loss statement revealed that the general fund giving for 2010 was up approximately \$1,000 from January 2009 (\$9,695.92 vs. \$8,669.00) and general fund expenses for 2010 exceeded those for January 2009 by \$2,385.49 but are in line with budgeted expenses. The monthly general fund expenses exceeded general fund revenue by \$1,770.60. The Light in the Beartooths pledges yielded \$19,516.78 in revenue during January.

Council members will be installed at the late service on Sunday, February 21st.

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

2010-2011 Messiah Church Council

Pastor	Kim Wilker	446-4466	cell 425-3713
President	Ann Christ	446-0326	cell 671-8285
Vice Pres	Barb Ostrum	446-4121	*****
Secretary	Jim Ochiltree	446-1856	cell 4253492
Treasurer	Bill Miller	446-0317	cell 425-2933
Education	Judy Streets	446-2140	cell 510)-295-5242
Family Life	Jeri Kyner	446-3323	*****
Outreach	Kathy Kreatz	446-1525	cell 425-1595
Property	John Overton	446-9172	cell 861-4183
Stewardship	Howard Young	446-9136	cell 670-3616
Worship	Andrea Holmen	446-2657	cell 425- 2657
Admin Assistant	Kathy Schilling	*****	cell 425-1644
Financial Sec.	Barb Ostrum	446-4121	*****
Accountant	Mark Schubert	446-3473	*****

Seder Meal At Messiah Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2010



The Passover stories have been told over and over for thousands of years, stories about miraculous change from misery to peace, slavery to freedom, sin to grace. One of the last things Jesus did with his disciples was to celebrate Passover and retell the story to them. The confirmation class, youth group and a group of adults at Messiah Lutheran have organized a Seder meal for Maundy Thursday at 6:00 PM at the church to celebrate the wondrous salvation our God brought to pass more than 3000 years ago when he delivered our ancestors from bondage in Egypt. A sign-up sheet is located at the church so we know how many to prepare for.

OFFICE HOURS AT MESSIAH

Monday: 8:00-1:00
Tuesday: 8:00-9:00 & 11:00-1:00
Wednesday: 8:00- 12:00
Thursday: 8:00-12:00
Friday: The Office is Closed.

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.

HOW TO REACH MESSIAH

Church Phone: 406-446-2430 **Website:** www.redlodgemessiah.com
Email: churchoffice@180com.net

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

March 2010 Newsletter
Return Service Requested