

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

May 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Don't forget a very special day coming up at Messiah, May 8. That Sunday is Mother's Day and we give thanks to God for the gift of moms and that day is also confirmation Sunday. Most of us remember Mother's Days past as well as our own confirmation journey and the day we were confirmed.

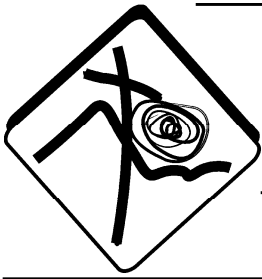
I still remember the names of all 14 eighth graders I was confirmed with at Holy Trinity Lutheran church in Dubuque, Iowa. I also remember the 2 hour sessions taught by the pastor every Saturday morning for two years; memorizing Luther's small catechism and then the fearful night of public examination by the congregation and not knowing which of the 200+ questions each of us might be asked to answer. By the grace of God we all somehow got through that night. My confirmation day was the second Sunday in May 1961, also Mother's Day. I don't know if it was the warm humid temperature that day, my anxiety, or the Holy Spirit, but I fainted during the service and don't remember much of what really happened. However, most of us celebrated no more Saturday mornings at the church and receiving Holy Communion for the first time confirmation day. My class confirmation hymn was "O Master Let Me Walk with Thee". Through all those years of church, Sunday school and confirmation, that day in 1961 I knew I was called to be a pastor, but nobody else did and I had no idea God's path would take another 39 years!

I encourage you to remember your faith journey as together this Mother's day we confirm Cole Daily, Liam Gildehaus, Molly Kreatz, and Vance Thuesen. These young people have completed two years of growing in the faith at worship with you, studying the Bible, Luther's small catechism, and meeting together with myself and Jim and Barb Ochiltree. These four youth will stand before us at worship and publicly affirm the faith into which they were baptized. They do not confirm themselves nor does just the pastor. You moms, dads, other family members, friends and the whole congregation will confirm their affirmation of faith in the Triune God. I'm guessing these 4 will experience feelings similar to what you may have had at your confirmation, including rejoicing classes are over and a sense of being done! Of course they are glad not to have a public examination, no memorization of every word in the catechism, and already receiving Holy Communion for several years. Many times people unfortunately see confirmation as a graduation, being done! Confirmation day is not an ending, rather a new beginning as the faith journey started in Holy Baptism continues for the rest of life.

Our Gospel for confirmation Sunday this year is from Luke called the Road to Emmaus. It's the day Jesus was resurrected and he's already heading out to be with people, walking along side two disciples who don't recognize him. I've been eagerly working on this confirmation sermon already. I trust our 4 youth learned plenty of information about Jesus, faith, the Bible, but I also trust they will continue to recognize God's presence in the world and trust even when seemingly absent, God still walks with them daily at school, home, play, work and the church. Come May 8th and be part of the celebration that the God who was there to hear your bawling cry, in the middle ages of your life and older years too, walks with us each step of the way.

Pastor Kim

"O Master Let Me Walk with Thee"



Campus Pastor John Lund at The University of Montana in Missoula

How Big is Your God?



*by John Lund,
Campus Pastor*

Several years ago David James Duncan sat with a group of students at Emmaus House and challenged us to consider if our belief about God was broad enough to include Ghandi into the ranks of the elect. It was the same question that I was asking in the mid-1980s while in college when I realized it was really dumb luck that I was born into a Christian home in North America. (or was it God's providence?) Even then I had people telling me, one of God's chosen baptized, that I was going to hell because I didn't have the proper conversion experience.

Are we really going to confess an all gracious and loving God, and then suggest that over half the world's population are going to hell? Its really absurd if you think about it. In the emerging worldview we are realizing that the concrete perceptions of heaven, hell, sin, and salvation have been argued and fought over with the lens of rationalism and modernity. These perceptions served a time and a place in Christian thought and history but they are not static nor universal within the tradition. They also have brought us into narrow and inconsistent theological positions. Like it or not, we are now in a time of debunking, reclaiming, retelling and expanding our understandings of even the basics of the Christian story including original sin, the supremacy of humanity, the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection, the purpose of being a Christian, and the vision of what the "Kingdom of God" might look like. This can be a scary process, but it is necessary for rebirth.

Our old answers are more and more irrelevant and unconvincing and we are losing a generation or two of people who are looking elsewhere for the complex answers to their lives. In the journey of reclaiming and retelling our story I believe we do have answers that speak to the complex, diverse, expanding understandings of our world.

We can trust that God is stirring up something new for God's people that will serve us for the years and generations to come. It is a time to watch, listen, read, and be open to the Spirit.

Peace,
Pastor John

FAMILY, FAITH, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

There will be a game exchange on Friday, May 13 at 6:30 PM at Messiah. There will be tables set up with games for you to choose from. Bring a drink and a snack to share. Please sign up at church if you are interested.

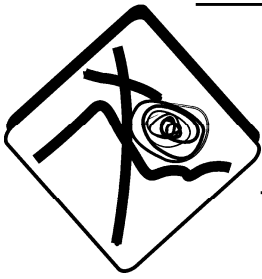
On Saturday, June 11 there will be a progressive dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Please sign up at church if you wish to attend and if you would like to host or bring food.

Come join the fellowship at Messiah.

CONFIRMATION AT MESSIAH

On Sunday, May 8, at our 9:30 AM Worship Cole Daily, Liam Gildehaus, Molly Kreatz, and Vance Thuesen will be confirmed at Messiah. We will celebrate with them in the affirmation of their Baptism and their formation in the faith.





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MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 Michelle Thompson
John Overton
- 5/2 Shirley Overton
- 5/3 Art Urban
- 5/6 Joan Kyro
- 5/7 Lynn Sorensen
- 5/13 Sue Prather
- 5/14 Linda Daily
- 5/22 Kathy Schilling
- 5/29 Brooke Feister
Jim Koski
- 5/30 Barb Ostrum

Happy Anniversary



- 5/13 Jean & Everett Atherly
- 5/29 Jim & Nancy Johnson

May Innkeepers



Our leaders this month are Howard and Karen Young.

Their team members are Duane and Marla Ebel;

David Jurkovich and Geno and Shilo Moncada. This month could use more help.

Please call the Young's at 446-9136 to offer your help.

CARE CENTER

WORSHIP SERVICES

Come worship, sing, pray hear the Word and celebrate Holy Communion with residents of our local long term care centers.

10:00 AM on Monday, May 2
Bible Study at Cedar Wood Villa

2:30 PM Thursday, May 26
Service at Cedar Wood Villa



Confirmation

Confirmation class this month will be Wednesday, May 4 at 2:45 PM.



Prayer Concerns

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bev Urbaniak's nephew Bruce Gilmer; Andrea Holmen's cousins George & Jackie Hanke; cousin Eline & cousin Zeb & his family; Pastor Ron Jensen; Margaret Tjeltveit; Pat Peterson; Ed Cardoza; Judy Prinkki; Eileen Luoma; Suzanne Zenz; Josh Wilker; Peter Christ's classmate Tony Fair; Peggy Smith; Toivo Lantta; David Jurkovich; Don Lindall; Jeri Kyner's mother Dot Englebright; Rick Koski; Bob Goehringer; Cole Gairrett; Sue Prather's Aunt Ann Lohof; Edna Collins; Art Urban; Gina Farnham's brother Chris Tweeten; Leon Odegaard; Pastor Kim & Terri's son-in-law Bob Dunning; Bill Alberta; John & Nani Clark's granddaughter's mother Jamie Schwellenbach; Helen Norby and Jeri & Jim Kyner and the Gabrian family upon the death of Cecil.

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 Mary Lou Maryott at 446-2594. To start a prayer request, contact Mary Lou Maryott by phone at 446-2594 or Judy Streets by email at messiahprayers@gmail.com. Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.

KNIT TOGETHER

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet with Mae Karina at **1:00 PM Thursday, May 5 at Cedar Wood Villa**. Come join the fun, even if you don't knit.

MAY BOOK CLUB

DATE: Thursday, May 19

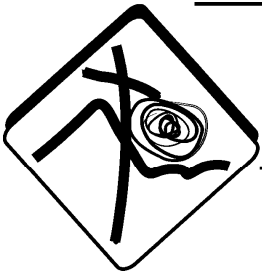
TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Barb Ochiltree's Home

BOOK: The Horse Boy
by Rupert Isaac

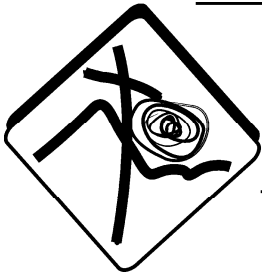
FACILITATOR:
Marietta Johnson





May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:45 AM Choir Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum 4:00 PM CHRISTIKON BENEFIT AUCTION at Billings Depot 	2 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 10:00 AM Bible study at Cedar Wood 6:00 PM Drummers	3 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek 4:00 PM Vision and Mission Meeting	4 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 2:45 PM Confirmation	5 1:00 PM Knitting at Cedar Wood Villa with Mae	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 Lutheran College Fair 2:15 PM Hope Lutheran 2152 West Graf Bozeman, MT
8 Confirmation & Mother's Day 8:45 AM Choir  9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Refreshments and Fellowship	9 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	10 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	11 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers 1:30 PM WELCA Bible study at Margaret's Home	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath 6:30 PM Family, Faith, Fun and Fellowship at Messiah/ Game Exchange	14 9:00 AM Highway 212 clean-up/s Meet at Messiah 9:30 AM Delegate Learning Day at Kathy Lillis Memorial Chapel/Billings
15 BareTooth Cupboards Sunday 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Refreshments and Fellowship	16 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	17 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	18 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers	19 7:00 PM Book Club at the home of Barb Ochiltree	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 Lutheran Social Services Sun 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 4:00 PM St. John's Lutheran Ministry Annual Meeting	23 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	24 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek 4:00 PM Church council	25 8:00 AM 5 Minute Prayers <u>News</u> <u>Articles</u> <u>Due For</u> <u>June</u>	26 2:30 PM Cedar Wood Villa Worship	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29  GRADUATION SUNDAY 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Refreshments and Fellowship	30 No Men's Breakfast Bible Study Today! Memorial Day 	31 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study @ Bridge Creek	Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7 PM at Messiah			



Christikon Clips

May, 2011

Information for our Congregations

It's not too late to register for camp this summer!

Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults, including the Work Weekend, May 27-30. You can register online, or use the form distributed with the brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information.



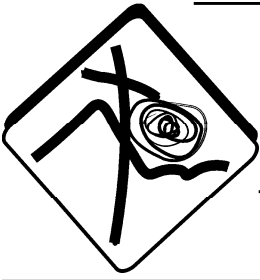
Christikon covers the full costs for each at-risk kid participating in Sojourners Camp. (We expect to have 24 this summer) We invite individuals, congregations and their auxiliaries to consider special giving for camp scholarships this summer.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Mountain Weekend 1 (July 8-10) we feature **Tim Spring**, Lutheran campus pastor at MSU in Bozeman. During Mountain Weekend 2 (July 22-24), **Dirk Lange**, who teaches worship at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, leads sessions for adults. He continues on during the Continuing Education Retreat (July 25-28), where he will be joined by **Mary Hinkle Shore**, who teaches New Testament at Luther Seminary. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us.

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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

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STEWARDSHIP

"A pledge made and kept, as best and much as we are able, is our way of living in the economy of abundance and locating the footprints of faith. Our participation matters -- it matters not just to (Messiah Lutheran) church, but to something greater. When we write a check or make a stock transfer we're making an investment in the household of God. We're placing our money and our lives on the line for a dream. We're saying that we believe that the dream, the dream of God, can, must, shall come true. "

In sermon "Money Matters,"

by The Reverend Dr. Stephanie J. Nagley

Submitted by Howard Young, Stewardship Chairman

CLEAN UP ON HIGHWAY 212

Save the date of Saturday, May 14 to clean our section of Highway 212.

We'll carpool from Messiah at 9:00 AM.

We hope to do this with Joliet as well.



All Aboard for the Christikon Benefit Auction Sunday, May 1, 2011

Christikon's biggest fundraiser will be held at the Billings Depot at 2310 Montana Avenue in Billings. Please join us, and railroad your friends and neighbors, too! Admission is \$10, with food and coffee provided by Red Lodge's Bridge Creek Backcountry Restaurant & Wine Bar.

We're on track to provide two options for bidding. Our silent auction, featuring gift baskets, small quilts and various crafted items begins at 4:00 when the doors open, and continues throughout the evening. Then at 5:30, our well-trained auctioneer Rick Young stokes the live bidding on items such as a stay at a Big Sky condo, hand-made quilts, tickets for a Minnesota Vikings and a Twins game, artwork, one week use of a skid steer loader/with bucket, stay at a Red Lodge cabin, and so much more! You can check out some of the items on our website at www.christikon.org

All aboard for good food, good quality items, good entertainment, and goodwill, all for a GREAT cause: Christikon Bible Camp! See you at The Depot!

GRADUATE SUNDAY AT MESSIAH

When: Sunday, May 29

Reception: 10:30 AM

Come join the celebration as we honor this year's graduate from our congregation.

Special prayers, memories, cake and beverages will be shared.

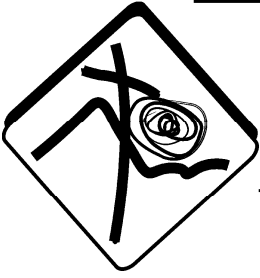
From Red Lodge High School:

Lauren Mullaney

THE WILLOWS COOKIE BRIGADE



As an outreach to the workers building the Willows, we would like to take cookies to them once a week. Please take 4 dozen to the construction site early in the week you sign up. If two people sign up, you each would only have to bring 2 dozen. Coordinate between the two, who will deliver the cookies. Another ministry of Messiah!



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL 26TH COUNCIL MEETING

Council Highlights

1. Messiah's income lags behind expenses.
2. Parsonage bathroom renovation was completed.
3. LIB mortgage balance is \$135,125.00 (3/31/11)
4. Members need to sign up to take cookies to the Willows' workers.
5. Sign up sheet in entry for Fun & Fellowship Game Event/May 13.
6. Progressive dinner is set for June 11.
7. Council regretfully accepts the resignation of Kathy Schilling.
8. May 8 is Confirmation Sunday for Molly Kreatz, Vance Thuesen, Cole Daily and Liam Gildehaus.
9. May 14 is Highway Cleanup. Meet at 9 am at church to car pool.
10. May 29 is Graduation Sunday.
11. Messiah will worship on land the last Sun in June, July, and August.

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

MARCH 2011

GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS

MARCH Income: \$9,460.41
 MARCH Expenses: \$10,646.98
 YTD Income: \$29,303.29
 YTD Expenses: \$32,125.57
 Net Income: -\$2,822.28



LIGHT IN THE BEARTOOTHS (LIB)

Initial Cost of Land \$550,000.00
 MARCH Income: \$2,967.00
 YTD Income: \$24,443.00
 March Principle Payment: \$5,000.00
 Mortgage Balance: \$135,125.99

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY MAY 22

This month we're reminded mothers comes in all shapes, colors, types and everybody needs a mom. Some birth mothers are unable to care for their child for various reasons and that's where LSS has a ministry! Did you know that in 2010 LSS of Montana provided counseling services to over 100 birth mothers and participated in 77 adoptions! Due to budgetary constraints this year the Montana Synod had to reduce financial support to LSS so congregations are invited to help out with special prayers and offering. St Paul reminds us in Holy Baptism that we all become adopted children of God! Your special one time annual offering to support LSS will be received during worship Sunday May 22.

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

May 2011 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

HOW TO REACH

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Kim Wilker @ 406-446-4466

Church Phone: 406-446-2430

Church Address: 723 S. Adams

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1330 Red Lodge, MT 59068

Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com

Email: churchoffice@180com.net

Sunday Choir Practice: 8:45 AM

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

Sunday Forum: 10:30 AM (September-April)

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.



Mother's Day
Sunday
May 8

OFFICE HOURS AT

MESSIAH

Monday: 8-1 PM

Tuesday: 8-1 PM

Wednesday: 8 - Noon

Thursday: 8 - Noon

Friday: Office Closed