

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

December 2011

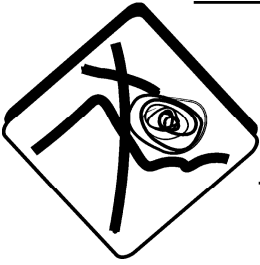
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The frig smells of turkey, we survived the long week end of family, friends, football, and the frenzied black Friday. And now, sing it with me: “Oh it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go.” Oh ain’t it so with a ho, ho, ho at the stroll, steaming hot chocolate and coffee, twinkling lights on Broadway, skiers galore on the mountain slopes, our quaint village restaurants and shops filled with folks, the church basement deluged with more than 1,000 gifts that await hundreds of young shoppers as their family members enjoy holiday hospitality of fresh goodies and festive music in our beautiful decorated worship space...and to top it all off, ready or not, you know who is coming to town - Santa Claus and we can hardly wait! Oops! You might want to call me scrooge or the grinch, but I’ve gotta tell you there’s another bearded fella who has been out in the wilderness eating wild honey and bugs and he’s coming to town before Santa without a bag of goodies and toys for all us girls and boys because he knows we haven’t been good! His name is John and his holiday greeting is: “Merry Christmas you brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come. The kingdom of God is near, repent, and believe in the gospel!” So much for a warm fuzzy most wonderful time of the year. In the church we’re in the season of the year called Advent which covers the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting, slowing down, getting ready, for the coming of God coming into the world in the flesh as the Christ child. This month of Advent our world is engaged in what seems like non stop 24/7 activity, baking, shopping, wrapping, writing, mailing, eating, drinking, partying, visiting, caroling, and even rehearsing Christmas church pageantry! And smack dab in the middle of it...here’s Johnny - “Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Repent! Bear fruit!” I’m pretty certain if John showed up on the street corners today he’d be called a fruitcake and taken away. How dare he intrude right in the middle of our Christmas/holiday preparations and celebration.

I wonder how John’s initial audience received his message some 2,000 years ago as God’s faithful people awaited the coming of the Messiah before there was a Christmas. Back then the mood, daily life and outlook were characterized by what have become Advent themes today - repentance, waiting, darkness, emptiness, light, comfort, expectation, preparation, hope. This advent I pray the scriptures and hymns will take us back to a deep longing and eagerness as people of God, awaiting God’s coming among us to heal, save and dwell with us. I pray that we’ll rekindle a deep yearning, hope and vision for the fulfillment of God’s promises: a connection between human and divine and arrival of God’s kingdom in the here and now. Advent seems a little like the season of Lent. You have to go thru Lent and the cross to get to Easter resurrection! So this season of Advent I pray you will wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus again as a babe in the manger. Make Advent a prayerful, reflective journey so on Christmas Eve you can sing anew “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” But also remember the Advent scriptures call on us to prepare not only for Jesus’ birth, but for his ministry, life, death, resurrection and coming again. Blessings to you and yours from the one who was, who is, and is to come again!

Pastor Kim

...prepare for the coming of Jesus...



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Sunday Forums begin after Worship each Sunday.
All are welcome!

December 4: Anti-Bullying with guest speaker Travis Burdick from our local Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. Come discover what's happening at the schools in Carbon and 6 other counties where DSVS is engaging with students and staff.

December 11: Forgiveness and Healing

October 2, 2011 marked the five-year anniversary of a tragic shooting that killed and wounded several young girls in an Amish one-room schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. Terri Roberts, mother of the shooter, has been embraced by the family of her son's most damaged surviving victim. She has been making weekly visits to the bedside of this girl who is paralyzed and cannot talk. Terri bathes and talks to her and sings hymns. How did this tragedy evolve into a such a remarkable story of forgiveness and healing? Please join us for conversation.

December 18: Christmas Traditions and Carols Come sing and share holiday traditions.

LONG TERM CARE MINISTRY

Come join with our friends and neighbors for worship. This month's schedule includes:

2:00 PM December 15
Worship at
Cedar Wood Villa

Please note the new time and December's date!

HELP out at the 2011 Christmas Kids' Shoppe!

The sixth Annual Christmas Kids' Shoppe will be held Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 10 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 9AM to Noon. For further information, call Barb 446-1856 or Jeri 446-3323

SEE THE SIGN UP POSTER IN THE NARTHEX!

Handicapped Parking

Imagine that you have difficulty walking and you are a member of Messiah Lutheran Church. Our church family is very friendly, but our facility is not very friendly to those folks who have handicaps.

In order to insure that our friends with handicaps can get to our church safely, it is very important that we provide a place where their drivers can drop them off.

We have marked the trees on the street on the south side of our property with yellow ribbons. **Please** do not park within that area. This will allow a car to drive in, drop off passengers, and **pull out and park in another location.**

Inn Keepers, if you could put the cones by the most easterly and westerly marked trees, that would be helpful.

Thank you for your help in making Messiah an accessibly friendly church to all.



"A Boost for the Budget"

All we've been reading and hearing about lately is the big budget deficit and how Congress can't get its act together to solve the problem. What's a person to do?

Well, we have our own deficit problem, but, fortunately, it's really tiny in comparison. We're looking at a potential \$10,000 shortfall by year end. Not terrible, but certainly something we need to stay on top of.

If you haven't completely fulfilled your pledge, or you have a little extra you'd like to contribute for Christmas - please consider making an extra effort to help Messiah close the deficit in our budget.

Let's show those crazy folks in Washington how to get things done!

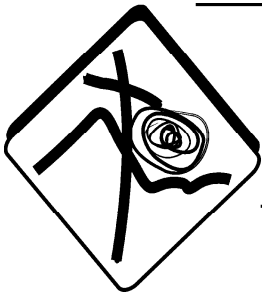
OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

October Income = \$10,404

October Expense = \$19,698

YTD thru October Income = \$98,962

YTD Expenses = \$116,518 (includes \$8,726 in unbudgeted church & parsonage expenses with \$6500 to be reimbursed by insurance)



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HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!

- 12/8 Alex Elsberry
- 12/11 Clara Jarvis
- 12/14 Michael Mullaney
Allen Hansen
- 12/15 Suzi Hansen
- 12/17 John Honey
- 12/18 Megan Gildehaus
- 12/25 Mary Lou Maryott
- 12/27 Marshall Bustier
Anne Christ
- 12/30 Dan Elsberry
- 12/31– Manfred Maryott

Happy Anniversary!

- 12/16-Jeff & Renee Gildehaus
- 12/22-Joe & Marietta Johnson
- 12/28-Dennis & Ann Christ

Innkeepers for December

Leaders

Ann and Dennis Christ
446-0326

- Lynn Sorenson
- John and Shirley Overton
- Ruth Urban

Inn Keepers

Messiah Lutheran needs all of us to keep our church running smoothly throughout the year. We are so blessed to have so many folks in our congregation with so many talents.

There will soon be a new Inn Keepers poster in the back of our church. If each person or family would sign up to help for just two months we would have more than enough help for the entire year!

Your Inn Keeper leader would contact you about a week before your month begins. Together as a group you decide where each person can help. You only need to do tasks you feel comfortable doing.

The things that need to be done each week are:

- cleaning the church,
- setting up for communion and helping with communion,
- ushering,
- reading the lessons,
- providing snacks for Sunday service,
- and snow shoveling when needed.

We do still need a few more Inn Keeper leaders for 2012. Let me know if you would like to be a leader. It is not difficult and I am happy to help you as much as I can.

Please sign up soon. Call me if you have any questions, 446-3323.

Thanks be to God for all of you and your help!

Jeri Kyner



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:



Prayer Concerns

NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:

Jackie Hanke, Kathy Kreatz and Terri Wilker

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

George Hanke
 Pastor Ron Jensen
 Pat Peterson
 Bill and Norma Alberta
 Juanita Keck
 Alice Hollman Lins
 Bill Tinsman
 Stanley Abbot
 Sandy Koski
 Marietta Johnson
 Andrea Holmen's cousin, Eline
 Josh Wilker

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Rhoda Burger

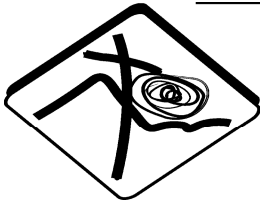
As you might be aware, the prayer requests in our Sunday bulletin have taken on a new look. We would like to keep our prayer requests more up-to-date.

We would also like to include prayers of thanksgiving. Many times we do not know how our prayers have been answered. You could all help us.

If you have requested prayers for someone, please let us know what happened with that person and how our prayers have been answered.

You can do that either by emailing messiahprayers@gmail.com or by calling Jeri Kyner at 446-3323.

Thank you for your help in improving our prayers chains.



Draft of the Minutes, December Council Meeting

President Barbara Ostrum convened the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Council Members Present: Barb Ostrum, Howard Young, Jeri Kyner, John Overton, Pastor Kim Wilker, & Jim Ochiltree

Members Not Attending (Excused): Leanne Mullaney, Kathy Kreatz, Andrea Holmen, & Dave Biersdorf

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Barb Ostrum opened with prayer seeking God's guidance during our deliberations, His presence with Kathy Kreatz and her medical team and God's blessing on this community of faith.

MINUTES: The draft of the October Council meeting minutes was approved, as presented. Motion was properly made, seconded and passed.

FINANCE REPORT:

Treasurer Ann Christ reviewed financial reports. Highlights from her financial reports include:

1. LIB's next quarterly interest payment is due November 30th & is approximately \$1,600. Ann requested permission to make the interest payment and as great a principal payment as possible. **Motion:** It was moved that the Council authorize the Treasurer to pay the quarterly interest and the maximum principal payment so to leave no less than \$100 in the LIB checking account. After being properly moved and seconded, the motion passed.
2. October's financial transactions reflected that two checks were written on the Mission Investment Fund (\$6,500 & \$6,726) to cover the up-front costs related to the new roof on the church. At this point the insurance payments have been received and cover all but \$526 (\$500 was the deductible & \$26 was an underpayment). The insurance payment will be returned to the church savings account. Additionally, \$2,108 has been collected for the Parsonage Driveway Project & this should be sufficient to cover the costs associated with the first stage of the project which has been done. However, it was the Council's consensus that no payment be made until a bill is received and the contractor removes equipment & debris from the work site. October's General Fund expenses (\$19,697.76) exceeded October's General Fund giving (\$10,403.89). This reflects a \$9,293.87 revenue shortfall for the month due, in part, to the expenses associated with the roofing project.
3. The year-to-date General Fund expenses (\$116,518.41) have exceeded year-to-date General Fund giving (\$98,962.90) by \$17,555.51. This shortfall reflects \$8,726 in unbudgeted church and parsonage maintenance, yet reminds us that expenses have outpaced giving by approximately \$10,000.

Due to recent difficulties in getting Mission Investment Fund funds transferred to the First Interstate Bank General Fund account and in recognition of the fact that the Mission Investment Fund funds are being used more frequently to maintain a positive cash flow for the General Fund Account, the Treasurer requested that the Council consider closing the Mission Investment Account and placing those funds in a First Interstate Bank saving account. This would have several advantages:

It will allow electronic fund transfers between accounts as necessary;

It will receive a 1% interest rate on balances less than \$40,000, similar to the interest rate paid on all Mission Investment account funds;

When the saving account balance exceeds \$40,000, the interest rate will jump to 1.9%;

When the church's funds stabilize and the savings account balance exceeds \$100,000, the Council may re-establish a Mission Investment Fund account.

Following discussion on this matter, the following motion was made: **Motion:** It was moved that the Council authorize the Treasurer to close the Mission Investment Fund account and use the funds from the account to create a new savings account in the First Interstate Bank. The church's itemized tracking of the savings account funds will retain the same bookkeeping line item designations as were in place when the funds were in the Mission Investment Fund account. After being properly moved, seconded, and thoroughly discussed, the motion passed.



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SPECIAL ISSUES

Calendar for December: The tentative December Calendar was reviewed by Council members. The Annual Congregational budget meeting will be on Sunday, November 27th following the service. Barbara Ostrum brought a request that the Council allow Tae-kwon-do classes to be held in the church on Mondays & Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30. It was agreed that there were consistent conflicts with Mondays that prevented the use of this day; however, it may be possible for the class to meet most Wednesdays. Barb will conduct further discussions on the topic and report back to the Council.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received from Luther Seminary for the \$3,000 gift in support of Peter Christ's academic pursuits and from the Lutheran World Relief for a \$50 gift through the Montana Synod.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property Management: John Overton presented insurance checks for the church roof to the Treasurer. He also indicated that he is continuing to shepherd the Parsonage Driveway project.

Outreach: Due to her current medical situation, Kathy Kreatz will be resigning her position on the Council. The Kid's Christmas Shoppe project is well underway and will be "set-up" the week of November 28th with the first "shopping day" being Saturday, December 3rd.

Education: Due to the budget discussion, no report was received.

Family Life: Due to the budget discussion, no report was received.

Stewardship: Howard Young reported on the stewardship appeal during the budget discussion. Currently, approximately \$95,000 in pledges have been received (a 9.3% increase in pledged giving from 2011) and, in recognition of the historical giving trends of non-pledging members and other payments regularly received by the church, the Council is anticipating giving at an estimated level of \$130,802 for the 2012 fiscal year.

Worship: Due to the budget discussion, it was briefly noted that the Christmas Eve services will be at 5 and 7 p.m.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kim indicated that he will be on vacation from December 20th through 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Endowment Development:** No discussion or action to address this issue due to the need to focus on the 2012 budget.
- **Budget Development:** The budget discussion began with a review of the preliminary results of this year's stewardship appeal and a tabulation of historical giving trends so that the Council had a realistic picture of the anticipated revenue for 2012. Due to a 9.3% increase in pledged giving (thank you Lord & congregation!), an income of \$130,802 seems realistic. The Board reviewed the preliminary budget and made several adjustments so that the total of the proposed expense budget will be \$129,934. This is a reduction of approximately \$11,000 from the 2011 expense budget. Discussion about how and what to present at the congregational meeting focused on making the process understandable. There was extended discussion about whether to bring up the topic of special offerings as a way to fulfill several of the areas which had been cut. It was the Council's final consensus that we would not do special offerings, but would consider making a special contribution to the Montana Synod at the end of the 2012, if funds are available.
- **Congregational Meeting:** The Council consented to revised agenda for the congregational meeting. Pastor Kim will offer the opening devotion and closing prayer. Jim Ochiltree will review the new constitution's quorum and voting member definitions. Barbara Ostrum will present the budget and others will assist with the discussion as needed.

Nominating Committee: Pastor Kim indicated that he would be convening the Nominating Committee to seek a candidate to fill the remainder of Kathy Kreatz's term as Outreach Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS:

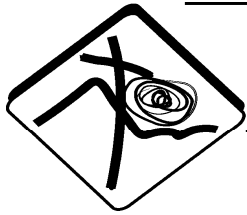
January Congregational Meeting Date: The proposed date for the January Congregational Meeting was Sunday, January 22, 2012. After checking the calendar for potential conflicts, Barbara Ostrum will make the appropriate arrangements for this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes Submitted by,

Jim Ochiltree, Council Secretary

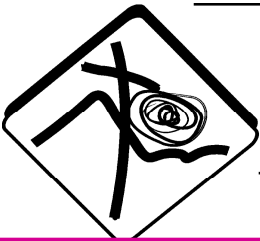
NOTE: Jim Ochiltree will do devotions for the next Council Meeting



Calendar

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 AM Set-up for Christmas Kids' Shoppe 1:00 PM Knitting at Cedar Wood Villa with Mae 5:00 PM Messiah tree decorating and soup supper	2 9:00 AM Set-up for Christmas Kids' Shoppe	3 9:00 AM—Noon Christmas Kids' Shoppe at Messiah
4 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	5 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	6 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ <u>Messiah</u>	7 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	8 10:00 AM Women's Book Club Party at the Pollard	9	10 9:00 AM—Noon Christmas Kids' Shoppe at Messiah 6:00 PM Fun, Faith, Family and Fellowship Christmas Party at Bridge Creek
11 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	12 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	13 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Christmas Party at Bridge Creek	14 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah 1:30 PM WELCA	15 2:00 PM Cedar Wood Villa Worship	16	17
18 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	19 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	20 9:00 AM No Women's Bible Study Group <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> Pastor Wilker will be on vacation from December 19 through December 21, 2011 </div>	21 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	22	23	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship
25 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship	26 NO Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:00 PM Drummers	27 9:00 AM No Women's Bible Study Group 4:00 PM Church Council <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:00 PM at Messiah. </div>	28 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	29	30	31



SAFARI BOOK GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011

Safari Book Group Christmas Gathering

We would like to invite all women to join us for a discussion of the book

Heaven is for Real

by Todd Burp

*Thursday, **December 8** at 10 am*

Pollard Hotel History Room

Followed by lunch at the Bistro

Even if you haven't read the book, please join us for fellowship and good food. This is a no-host event. There will be a small fee for the use of the history room and refreshments.

Please RSVP if you are planning to come.

For more information call Kathy 425-1644 or Jeri 446-3323



Reminder re: "The Lutheran" Magazine

Starting with the January issue, members need to begin personal subscriptions to "The Lutheran" magazine.

Check for subscription information in your current issue.

Here are the address and telephone number:

Augsburg Fortress Publishers
P. O. Box 1209
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209
1 (800) 328 4748 Toll Free

Women's Bible Study Christmas Party



When: Tuesday, December 13

Where: Bridge Creek

Time: 9:00 AM

Bring: A gently used gift to give in our drawing and a breakfast food to share

Come and join our Christmas fellowship All women are invited.

"The Stewardship of Grace"

1 Timothy 6:12-19

"The life that really is life"

Stewardship emerges out of a heart of faith that confesses Christ. In this letter, Paul urges Timothy to teach the rich to put their trust in God, not their possessions. For it is only through God that they can do good and "take hold of the life that really is life".

Faith, Fellowship, Fun and Family Dinner and Gift Exchange

When: December 10 at 6 PM

Where: Bridge Creek

Bring: "Goofy Gift"

Cost: \$17 per person



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

DECEMBER 2011 Newsletter

Return Service Requested



“O Holy Night”

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship

9:30 AM

Messiah's

Mission:

*To know Christ
To make disciples
To send out
To make Christ
known*

HOW TO REACH MESSIAH

Church Phone: 406-446-2430
Church Address: 723 S. Adams PO Box 1330
Website: www.redlodgemessiah.com
Email: churchoffice@180com.net
Pastor Kim Wilker 446-4466
Sunday Choir Practice: 8:45 AM
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM
Forum and Fellowship: 10:30 AM

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.*