

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

January 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Whew! Christmas and the holiday season are over. Or is it? Well, not just yet as many people around the world ready to celebrate Epiphany which occurs January 6, the 12th day of Christmas. In Bulgaria and other Orthodox countries the local priest blesses a cross, throws it into a river or the sea and swimmers race to see who can reach the cross first. In Spain, children often wait until Epiphany to open their gifts. "King's Cake" is popular In France, Belgium, Switzerland, and New Orleans in the U.S. as a trinket is hidden inside a cake and whoever finds it is king/queen for a day. Still in other places Christmas trees need to be down before Epiphany or you will have a year of bad luck. In my childhood family tradition, the tree was always taken down on January 6th. Different strokes for different folks; yet all had to do with the wise men's 12 day journey following a star to Bethlehem where they worshipped the newborn Christ child bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The biblical story is found in the Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter. I encourage you to read Matthew's story and compare it to the non-biblical rendition.

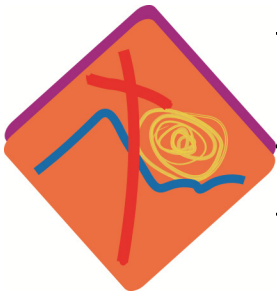
We don't have very many details from the Bible about the wise men. There is no mention of the number of wise men, magi, sages, or astrologers. They are not named and yet tradition calls them the "Three Kings"; Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. We don't know what land they came from other than "the east", probably Persia, modern day Iran. While we are told what gifts they bring, we don't know the value. Some modern day scholars say a small chest of pure gold would have been worth \$500,000 and the other two gifts even more valuable in that day. I wonder what Mary and Joseph did with all that wealth? The Bible doesn't say. Maybe the gifts were sold to protect and keep them safe during their time as refugees in Egypt. I never thought of it before, but could Jesus have spent his early childhood and young adult years as part of a wealthy family? The Bible doesn't tell us.

So, what's the message in this biblical Epiphany story? Of course there are many, but one I focus on is the wise men being lead on a journey to find and worship the Christ child. Worship of God is a core expression of one's faith in any religion. Three times in Matthew's story, the phrase "pay him homage" is used. Homage refers to a bowing down posture and an attitude of worship. Even King Herod uses the term homage as he instructs the wise men to inform him when they find the child so he too may go and pay him homage. Of course, Herod's is speaking of false worship, leaving no gifts, rather taking the child's life to preserve his own position of power, control and status. The wise men find Jesus, are overjoyed, kneel before him, pay homage (worship) him, offer valuable gifts and return home but by another way. This is our experience of faith too. We meet Jesus, we find joy, we offer our worship and gifts and then we also go home a different way. It's not that the route is different; we are different. Life is not the same, for through our worship and giving we receive an Epiphany gift of just who this Jesus is and how much he cares and loves all people, including you and me. Epiphany marks the arrival of the wise men, but the story continues.

I pray you and yours will have a blessed 2012 as our faith journey continues toward home.

Pastor Kim

Pay Him homage



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Sunday Forums begin after Worship each Sunday

January 1 "The Year of Mark". During 2012, most of our Sunday Gospel reading will be from Mark. Pastor Kim will lead an overview of this Gospel, the author's theology, purpose and major differences between this and the other three gospels.

January 8 "Baptism". What is holy baptism? Why do some immerse and others "sprinkle"? What's the Lutheran perspective on baptism and other views? Join the conversation on this Sunday, known as "The Baptism of Jesus" Sunday

January 15 "Skiing Red Lodge" with guest author and ski instructor, Ray Masters. It's a banner year for Red Lodge Mountain. Come see and hear about the history with old time photos, film clips and stories.

January 22 Annual Congregation Meeting

January 29 "Pastoral Care" with guest presenter, Rev. Karl Guhn, director of pastoral care, St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings. What is pastoral and spiritual care at the various levels of care provided by St. John's? What opportunities will we have to be involved at "The Willows" here in Red Lodge? Come be a part of visioning the groundwork for the local ministry.

LONG TERM CARE MINISTRY

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

January 26 2:00 PM

Worship at Cedar Wood Villa

January Book Club

Here is the schedule for the Safari Book Club for January.

Date: Thursday, January 19

Time: 7PM

Place: Mary Ames' home,
1230 Lazy M Circle 446-1745

Book: "*Room*"
by Emma Donoghue

Facilitator: Mary Ames

Messiah's Facebook Page

Have you visited [Messiah's Facebook page](#)? If not, you have missed photos of several recent fun and colorful holiday events. Check out our Facebook page, "friend" us and "like" us too!



Messiah's Facebook page also has information on upcoming events at the Church as does the website

<http://www.redlodgemessiah.com>

The Willows at Red Lodge also has a Facebook page and the photos there are updated regularly. Take a look at the beautiful, warm interior of the facility slated to open in 2012.

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.

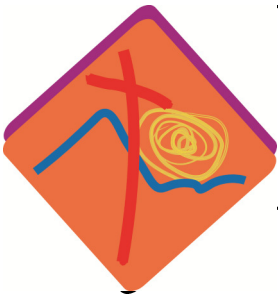
In order to insure that our friends with handicaps can get to our church safely, it is very important that we provide a place where their drivers can drop them off.

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.





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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 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

Innkeepers for January

Leader: Barb Ostrum
446-4121

- Barb Ostrum 446-4121
- Dolly and Jim Koski 446-2830
- Donna Downing 446-0164
- Lavonne Ervin 446-3086



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

NEW PRAYER CONCERNS:

Sandi Koski, Terri Wilker, Josh Wilker, Bill Alberta and Jeri Kyner

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

George Hanke
Pastor Ron Jensen
Pat Peterson
Norma Alberta
Juanita Keck
Bill Tinsman
Stanley Abbot
Andrea Holmen's cousin, Eline
Roberta Doherty
Kathy Kreatz



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

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.



Highlights
from the December 22nd Council Meeting

A thank you note was received from St John's Lutheran Ministries acknowledging gratitude for this year's contribution.

It was noted that 225 shoppers were served through the Kids' Christmas Shoppe project this year and that 1,101 gifts were wrapped. Additionally, many parents accessed the free gifts available in their waiting area & cookies were consumed in LARGE quantities. It was also reported that, due to busyness of the season, there will be no Family, Faith, Fun & Fellowship activity in January. Of the \$2,409 collected thus far for the Parsonage Driveway Project, a \$1,784 payment will be made for the first phase of the project. An additional \$3,500 is still needed to fully fund this project. Due to the continually difficulty maintaining the no parking area on the 19th Street side of the church, the development of appropriate signage "no parking/drop-off zone" will be undertaken.

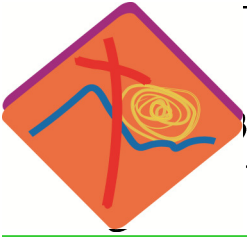
In preparation for the January 22, 2012 Annual Congregational meeting, the Nominating Committee has begun its work and members are encouraged to give careful prayerful consideration to any requests that the committee may make of them.

This month's financial report included the following items:

1. November's General Fund expenses (\$9,947) exceeded November's General Fund giving (\$8,612.50). This reflects a \$1,334.50 revenue shortfall for the month due.
2. The year-to-date General Fund expenses (\$126,465.41) have exceeded year-to-date General Fund giving (\$104,389.31) by \$18,543.50.

The Council has authorized the Treasurer to make a principal payment of at least \$25,025.99 prior to the end of December and to maintain a balance in the LIB Account of \$1,000 in preparation for the February 28, 2012 interest payment. It should be noted that with this minimum principal; payment the outstanding loan balance will be \$75,000.

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



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The 2011 Christmas Kids' Shoppe!

With donations from Carbon County and Billings merchants, dozens of volunteers cheerfully worked to make Christmas shopping fun and easy for area children again this year. This was our largest year ever!

The Christmas Kids' Shoppe is free to all children from ages 4—11; economic need is never a factor, the Shoppe welcomes every child.

The sixth annual Christmas Kids' Shoppe attracted 225 children and those children left with 1,101 gifts. As always, the gifts were free and were wrapped as the children waited.

Many thanks to the merchants who helped make this free annual event possible and to the volunteers who did the planning, visited area schools to distribute tickets, donated and organized the gifts, stocked the wrapping stations, set up, decorated, made cookies and greeted, played the festive Christmas tunes, helped the children shop, wrapped, and cleaned up afterwards.

We would like to remind people to keep us in mind all through the year as they clean out items they think we could use. We have certainly depleted our items this year. You can put them in the lower level and in the room in the southwest corner.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2012

The Annual Meeting of Messiah Lutheran Church will be held at the Church on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 10:30 AM, following worship.

Join us elect the Church Council and other positions for 2012, to review Messiah's goals for 2012 and to learn about what Messiah, with God's Grace, has accomplished in 2011.

New Office Hours

Beginning in January, the church office will be open from 9AM to Noon, Monday through Thursday. You can leave a message for the office at 446-2430, or by email at churchoffice@180com.net.





Calendar

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	2 8:00 AM NO Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Messiah 7:00 PM Drummers	3 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group at Bridge Creek	4 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	9 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Messiah 7:00 PM Drummers	10 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group at Bridge Creek	11 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	16 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Messiah 7:00 PM Drummers	17 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group at Bridge Creek 4:00 PM Church Council	18 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21
22 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM <u>Annual Meeting</u>	23 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Messiah 7:00 PM Drummers	24 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group at Bridge Creek	25 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah	26 2:00 PM Cedar wood Villa Worship	27 Pastor's Day Off	28
29 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Forum	30 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study at Messiah 7:00 PM Drummers	31 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group at Bridge Creek	Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:00 PM at Messiah.			



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A Winter Event for High School Age Youth

Hi all...This is Paul Goodman, Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman, MT. If we have not yet crossed paths, I hope that we will soon!

I have been working with Pastor Andy Arnold to create a new event that we are really excited about. We want to invite you to our first ever Montana Synod Ski Retreat. This year, we decided that instead of holding an MLYO event in October, that we would offer a new event in Bozeman, in February.



I am hopeful that you and your high school aged youth will join us over the weekend of February 24-26. We will be skiing all day on Saturday at Bridger Bowl, and will offer learning opportunities on Friday and Saturday Evening. The event will also include a pool party at Bozeman Hot Springs! The best news of all is that the cost of this event is only \$99 and that includes everything except for Ski Rental. (Available for \$25) The church office has a brochure for sign up.



We will be sleeping at Hope, so youth and adults will need to bring air-mats and sleeping bags. This is mainly in the interest of making this event as affordable as possible. We do ask that each church provide enough adults for their group, and transportation for skiing and swimming for their own groups. If you would like more detailed information, do not hesitate to contact me at paul.goodman@hopebozeman.com.

This event will be an excellent opportunity for youth from all across our synod to connect, make new friendships and grow in their faith. We hope to see you there!
-Paul Goodman

GUEST PRESENTER

On January 29, at our 9:30 AM worship service, we will have a guest preaching, Reverend Karl Guhn, Director of Pastoral Care at St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings. Reverend Guhn will also lead our Sunday Forum after worship, at 10:30 AM, with insight into pastoral and spiritual care as provided at St. John's.

"The Stewardship of Grace"

It is God's nature to give.
You and I are fashioned after God's likeness.
That means we are made for giving.
Each one of us has a need to give.
Unknown

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

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

JANUARY 2012 Newsletter

Return Service Requested



God's Gift of Wintertime Fun!



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.*