

Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

July 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy 4th of July! Bring on the parade, rodeo, mom's apple pie and the stars and stripes forever as we celebrate our independence day.

This 4th I invite you to also celebrate the freedom Jesus brings. One time Jesus spoke to a group of believers, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free" The Jewish believers were offended by Jesus' words and quickly responded "we are descendants of Abraham and have never been in bondage to anyone." And Jesus replied, "Truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." The religious folk of Jesus' day did not like being called slaves, they bragged about being free!

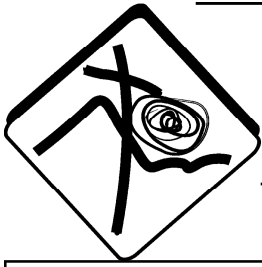
If we're honest, we don't like Jesus' words either. We boast about our freedom and say we're the land of the free and home of the brave, never slaves to anyone, well, maybe King George, but we took care of him. Yet, Jesus words are for us too, that you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. But, what are we modern day Americans slaves to? Jesus says, we're slaves to sin, up to our necks in it and we could make a long list, but I'll just list one that we together as church can fall prey to! We can remain enslaved to church traditions. We get enslaved to a particular worship style, a certain color hymnal, our denomination, to cultural heritage, even making jokes about uffda and lutefisk. Oh yeh, we are in bondage to tradition! Yet, even worse than traditions, is being a slave to an old view of what the church is really about. Too often we feel like the church is a hospice, business or club. The church is here to take care of us and keep us comfortable until we die, it ought to run like a business, especially when it comes to our offerings, and it's like a club that affords benefits (like baptize, marry, bury) to members only. But the truth of the church is it's not a hospice, business, or club, rather it is the body of Christ, that we are the hands, feet, body, soul and mind of Jesus Christ in the world. The truth will set you free, but first it's going to hurt! The truth is the church is not about just us and our traditions. The church does not exist simply for us who belong. The church doesn't even belong to us, it's Jesus' church and through our worship around Word and sacrament we become part of Jesus and his church.

The other major truth about the church is that it does not exist solely inside the walls of a church building. We are the body of Christ, Jesus' feet, arms, hands, etc and bodies get up and move out and about. The tag line for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is "God's work, our hands". Jesus lives through our feet and hands, through us. No one has ever seen God, but they get to see Jesus' body, that's you and me, as Jesus lives through us out in the world. Inside the walls the church is a training community, an empowering agency, meant to equip us for the work of ministry in our daily lives, at home, work, play, in our community, state, nation and world wide.

"For freedom Christ has set you free!" (Galatians 5:1). Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we are forgiven and freed from sin and freed to be Jesus' body living out our faith active in love in our daily lives. So, may you celebrate a safe firecracker of a 4th of July and also God's gift of freedom in and through Jesus!

Pastor Kim

"For freedom Christ has set you free!" (Galatians 5:1)



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UPDATE ON MESSIAH PROPERTY FOR SALE

On June 21, Harry Hollman, our real estate agent, showed our church property to people interested in the property for a day care center.

As info is learned, we will share the news with the congregation.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP THIS SUMMER

Sunday, July 31, Messiah's worship service will take place on our land on highway 212.

Grab a lawn chair, sun screen, bring a friend and come as you are for our 9:30 AM worship service out in God's beautiful creation.

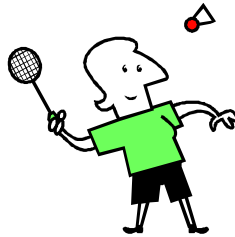
Outdoor worship will also take place the last Sunday in August.

Light refreshments will be served following worship.



COMMUNITY SUMMER FUN & FELLOWSHIP ON THE LAND

Every Wednesday this summer, Messiah Lutheran will be providing an opportunity for the community to enjoy a Wednesday evening of outdoor fun and fellowship on the property located next to Sam's Tap Room, starting at 6:30 PM. Beginning June 15th through August 17th, there will be a short devotional service followed by lots of fun.



Some of the possibilities are softball, volleyball, badminton, horse shoes and croquet. A campfire is planned and plenty of time for visiting and songs. Water will be provided. Bring your own chairs, snacks and drinks if you want something other than water. This is a community event so do not bring alcoholic beverages.

If you would like to host a Wednesday evening, please call Barb Ochiltree at 446-1856. Spread the word. It will be a great time for all ages.

Visit Messiah's Facebook page for pictures of the games from our first summer evening event.



MESSIAH has again been recognized by Luther Seminary as a congregation financially supporting seminary students.

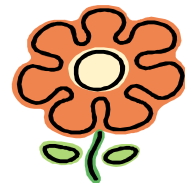


Peter Christ is noted as a student scholarship recipient as he pursues a Master of Divinity degree.

Ann Christ serves on Luther Seminary Board of Directors.

THANK YOU!

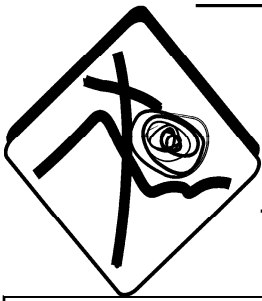
to Margaret Tjeltveit for again arranging for and paying for the purchase of Messiah's hanging flower baskets. Margaret also takes care of the maintenance fees. Thank you, Margaret.



BIKE RIDE ACROSS AMERICA

Allen and Suzi Hansen continue their long bike ride to the East Coast. The last report we had, dated June 28, was from Missoula, Montana. If you are not on the Hansens' email list, updates on their adventure are posted on the Church bulletin board.





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- 7/2 Kurt & Lynn Schulte
- 7/7 Anella Thompson
Beverly Urbaniak
- 7/11 Dennis Prewett
- 7/16 Barb Wright;
Jack Ervin
- 7/17 Eileen Luoma
- 7/19 Jacob Kreatz
- 7/20 Linda Lindall
- 7/24 Mary Ames
- 7/25 Renee Gildehaus
- 7/29 Sally Gildehaus
- 7/30 Seth Ebel
David Jurkovich

July Innkeepers



Innkeepers for July

Innkeeper Leaders for July are Jeri and Jim Kyner. 446-3323

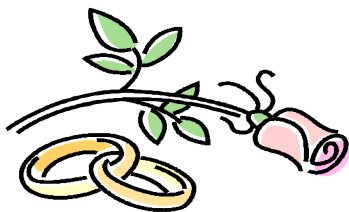
Innkeeper Helpers are:
Duane and Marla Ebel
Dolly and Jim Koski
Stan and Gina Farnham
Jim and Jeri Kyner

LONG TERM CARE MINISTRY

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

2:30 PM July 28

Worship at Cedar Wood Villa.



Happy Anniversary

- 7/10 Lee & Debi Norby
- 7/12 Gina & Stan Farnham
- 7/21 Norma & Bill Alberta
- 7/29 Bill & Lois Miller



Prayer Concerns

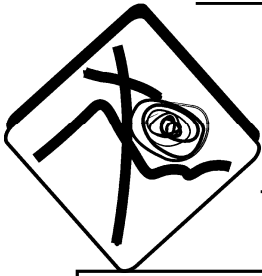
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

PRAYER REQUESTS: Helen Norby, Bev Urbaniak's nephew Bruce Gilmer, Andrea Holmen's cousins George & Jackie Hanke, and her uncle Clarence, Pastor Ron Jensen, Margaret Tjeltveit, Pat Peterson, Eileen Luoma, Suzanne Zenz, Josh Wilker, Peter Christ's classmate Tony Fair, Peggy Smith, Toivo Lantta, Cole Gairrett, Sue Prather's Aunt Ann Lohof, Art Urban, Bill & Norma Alberta, John & Nani Clark's granddaughter's mother Jamie Schwellenbach, Joel Hardy's father Warren, Herb & Myrna Hunt's granddaughter Heather Watts, Brooke Feister's friend Juanita Keck, Harry Hollman's mother Alice Hollman Lins and Jim Koski's friend, Tom Westhoffer.

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. To start a prayer request, contact Jeri Kyner by phone at 446-3323 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.

Christikon sent a **THANK YOU** letter for Messiah's contribution of a quilt for their May auction. The quilt brought \$210 in the silent auction. Thank you to Gina Farnham, Brooke and John Flynn, Karen Brock, Mary Ames, Shirley Quinn, and Barb Ostrum.





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Members of Messiah Lutheran Church Please join the "drive" for the parsonage driveway!

The driveway and steps at the parsonage need replacement. The asphalt and concrete driveway is crumbling, sunken in areas and nearly impossible to shovel during the winter.

The cost will total at least \$6000. Materials and rebar cost \$3500 (Labor is donated). And the bid to remove the current driveway and hauling it away is nearly \$1800. Then new steps will have to be built.

We must keep the parsonage in good shape, and this work needs to be done this summer. We did not budget for this expense, which is why we are asking for your help.



FAMILY, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, July 24

Come to Parkside Campground, Site B, at 11:00 AM. We will be having a potluck picnic! Please remember your lawn chairs.

Cost per family is \$5

Watch for a signup sheet in the narthex.

Join us!



SIMPLIFYING STEWARDSHIP

"(Should we, as Christians,) stress the importance of giving to God first, and living on the rest. In the face of our culture of consumerism, if people give what they have left after they have taken care of all their needs and wants, generous giving will simply never happen."

Chick Lane

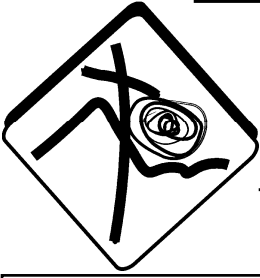
SUMMERTIME STEWARDSHIP PLANNING

" Your stewardship committee reminds you to take care of your giving this summer. Travel, activities, and vacations can distract from our church tithing and giving obligations, so be sure to take time to fill your envelope or write that check. Cash flow can become an issue for the treasurer if our giving is not maintained at the usual level. Thank you all for your faithful attention to the needs of the church."

JULY BOOK CLUB



We will be reading the book called **Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosnay. Our meeting will be at Mary Lou Maryott's home on Thursday, July 21, at 7:00 PM. Facilitator will be Barb Ochiltree.



Vacation Bible School at Messiah “God’s Big Backyard”



When: August 8-11, 2011

Where:

Time: 9 AM - Noon

Cost: Free

Kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade in the fall of 2010 will meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks.

To register please stop by the church office from 9:00 AM-Noon Monday through Thursday.

For more information or if you would like to help please call:

Gina Farnham at 446-9818 or the church office at 446-2430.

Registration Form For VBS at Messiah Lutheran August 9-12 from 9-Noon

Please leave this form at the church office at 723 S. Adams St, Red Lodge (446-2430)

Child’s Name _____

Grade Completed _____ **Cost: FREE**

Birthday _____ **Age** _____

Parent’s Names _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Emergency Contact person/phone # _____

Food Allergies/Medical concerns _____

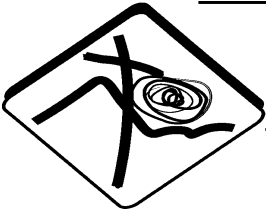
Siblings Attending VBS Names/Ages _____

People who may pick up your child _____

Transportation Needed? Yes _____ **No** _____

Email Address _____

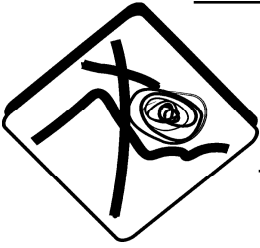
Please leave this form at the church office at 723 S. Adams St, Red Lodge (446-2430)



Calendar

JULY 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Pastor's Sabbath	2
3 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship and Refreshments	4 July 4th No Men's Breakfast Bible Study	5 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Messiah	6 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah 6:30 PM Community fun on the Hwy 212 Land	7 1:00 PM Knitting at Cedar Wood with Mae	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9
10 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship and Refreshments	11 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	12 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Messiah	13 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah 6:30 PM Community fun on the Hwy 212 Land	14	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship and Refreshments	18 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	19 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Messiah	20 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah 6:30 PM Community fun on the Hwy 212 Land	21 7:00 PM Book Club at Mary Lou Maryott's	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 Worship by Peter Christ 8:45 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship and Refreshments	25 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:00 PM Drummers	26 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study Group @ Messiah 4:00 PM Church Council	27 8:00 AM Five Minute Prayers for Messiah 6:30 PM Community fun on the Hwy 212 Land	28 2:30 PM Cedar Wood Villa Worship	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30 Julie Miller and Chris Norville Wedding at St. Olaf Lutheran Church
31 9:30 AM Worship on the Highway 212 Land 10:30 AM Fellowship and Refreshments			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays at 7:00 PM at Messiah.</p> </div>			



Highlights from the June 28th Council Meeting

This month's financial information included the following items of note:

\$5,000 was taken from the Parsonage line item of the Mission Investment fund to pay for the renovation of the parsonage's downstairs bathroom and sewer line project

The May Profit & Loss statement reflected a General Fund giving level of \$9,678.94 and General Fund expenditures of \$13,840.97. With the exception of the parsonage bathroom project, the General Fund Income was about equivalent to General Fund Expenses.

The 2011 Year-to-date General Fund giving exceeds that of 2010 by just about \$2,800.00.

The Year-to-date General Fund income lags behind the Year-to-date General Fund expenses by approximately \$4,600, after factoring out the Parsonage bathroom expenses which were covered by the \$5,000 Mission Investment Fund withdrawal.

For the second consecutive month the General Fund checking account has shown a zero balance at the end of the month, reflecting the continuing cash flow issues related to the General Fund account.

The LIB account continues to reflect members' faithful giving in fulfillment of their pledges. An \$18,400 principal and interest mortgage payment was made prior to May 31st, thus, the current mortgage balance is \$116,725. June LIB giving has been \$2,430 and will be retained in the LIB account since the next interest payment is not due until the end of August. The Council will consider using the July and August LIB income to make an additional payment of the mortgage principal.

Members have already given \$850 toward the Parsonage driveway & front steps project. The total project cost is anticipated to be \$6,000.

Council members were asked to remind people about the Wednesday games nights on the Hwy 212 land through the 3rd Wednesday in August. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m.

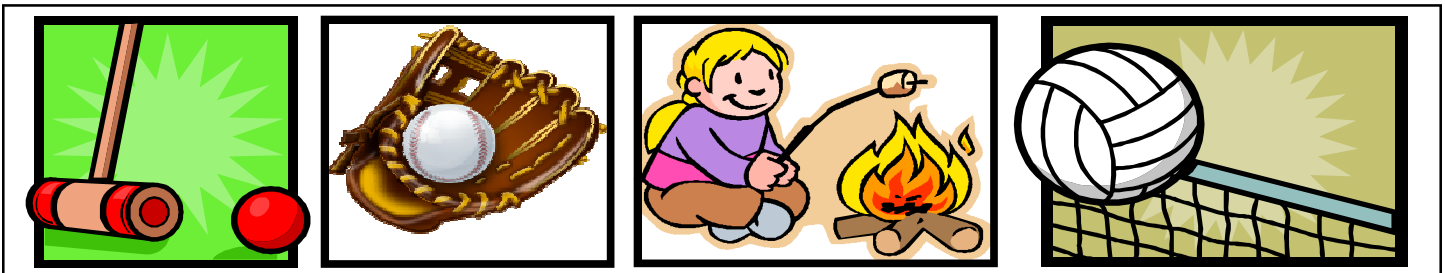
Committee reports were received. Christikon scholarships have been awarded and paid. The parsonage driveway & front steps project is scheduled to be completed in July. In conjunction with the Red Lodge Yellow Ribbon Committee, Messiah will be providing meals for the family of a deployed military person for 3 Thursdays in July.

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

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

July 2011 Newsletter

Return Service Requested



What? Community Fun; games and fellowship

Where? the Church Land on Highway 212, north of Sam's Tap Room

When? every Wednesday at 6:30 PM

Bring? lawn chairs, your own beverages (non-alcoholic), your singing voice and your summer enthusiasm.

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
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.