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# Light in the Beartooths

MESSIAH LUTHERAN NEWS

September 2011

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Wow! I can hardly believe this is my 90<sup>th</sup> pastor's greeting in the church newsletter! It's hard to come up with something fresh, new, interesting, etc. each month. However, I like to think the underlying themes of my articles remain constant - community (church) and mission. I especially like what Alan Roxburgh says in his book *Introducing the Missional Church*. There are 2 kinds of churches today, the *attractional church* and the *missional church*. The attractional church model believes people outside the church are looking for a church, sense they should belong to a church and thus church leaders should create the most attractional church possible. Attractional congregations live in a field of dreams, "*build it and they will come.*" The attractional church's mission is to get people to attend. These churches work hard doing everything they can to get people inside the church, maybe constructing a new church building, creating the best youth ministry, having the best musicians and latest music, perhaps a young energetic charismatic pastor, etc. "The common theme in the attractional church is about an event, usually Sunday morning services and about getting people to attend that event. The church then puts all it's energy and focus on meeting the expectations of providing excellent top notch spiritual goods and services to attract people." The attractional church model is what most churches have been doing and what's wrong with bringing people into the church? Of course, nothing! However, have you noticed this attractional model isn't working like it used to. Today most congregations have less people at Sunday services, Sunday Schools are declining or disappearing, the mainline churches are often now called sideline churches, church is now one option among numerous possibilities every day including Sunday. So what are we as Messiah Lutheran Church to do or become? I hope we'll put aside the *attractional church* model and consider the missional. Author Roxburgh writes: "A missional imagination is not about the church; it's not about how to make the church better, how to get more people to come to church, or how to turn a dying church around, all of these are good things...God is up to something in the world that is bigger than the church...It's not the church of God that has a mission. It's the God of mission that has a church. God is at work to redeem creation and God invites us to participate in that mission. God is not interested in getting more and more people into the institution of the church. Instead the church is to be God's hands and feet in accomplishing God's mission."

Attractional churches say, "Come on down, God's in here every Sunday and other days at Bible study, youth group, prayer meetings, etc." The missional church says God is not simply confined inside, but on the move out in the community at large, God is up to something out in the "hood". I encourage us at Messiah to not simply get hung up on attracting people to what we are doing inside the church facility. Look around and see what God is up to out there in the neighborhood. What do we need to change in order to engage the people in Red Lodge and Carbon County who no longer consider church a part of their lives? What does it mean to be a missional church? What's God's future for us? Join in conversation about this and more at our Sunday forums after worship September 18 and 25. Come see what God is up to and be a part of it all!

*Pastor Kim*



## FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Come!

Renew and Revitalize Your Spirit!



The Fall Women's Retreat is scheduled for September 11—13 at Bev Urbaniak's home. The Retreat will begin Sunday afternoon and continue through Tuesday lunch.

Watch for a Sign-up Sheet at church.

## SUNDAY FORUMS for SEPTEMBER

**Sunday Forums**, held after Worship each Sunday, will begin again after the service on September 11

Here are the topics for September

- **September 11**—ELCA Malaria Campaign
- **September 18**—God's Mission and Our Hands and Feet
- **September 25**—Dialogue on Mission and Financial Support

Please join us after the Service.

## BIKE RIDE ACROSS AMERICA

Allen and Suzi Hansen continue their long bike ride to the East Coast.

The last report we had, dated August 30, was from New York State, via Canada.

If you are not on the Hansens' email list, updates on their adventure are posted on the Church bulletin board.



## Martin: a life of Martin Luther

an original one-man portrayal

performed by Allan Lemke

Performed to wide acceptance in Lutheran and other churches in 22 states. A life long interest, now devoted to expressing the Gospel in a fresh and interesting way. Runs approximately one hour and ten minutes, including a ten-minute intermission.

A free-will offering will be taken.

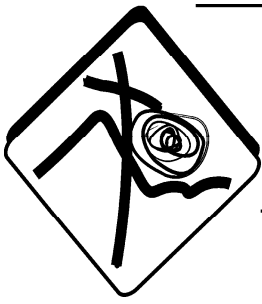
DATE: Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
1108 24<sup>th</sup> Street West, Billings MT

For more information call: Dewey Anderson 656-1709





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- 9/1 Dennis Kreatz  
Clancy Theade
- 9/4 Harry Hollman
- 9/6 Donna Downing
- 9/11 Cole Daily
- 9/13 Howard Young
- 9/15 Jean Atherly
- 9/20 Jane Chatlain
- 9/21 John Flynn
- 9/25 Everett Atherly
- 9/26 Mark Mullaney  
Curt Schulte  
Howard Marquardt
- 9/30 Marla Ebel

## Innkeepers for September



- Lois and Bill Miller 446-0317
- Ann and Dennis Christ

The Innkeepers could use a few more helpers in September. Please help if you can by calling Millers at 446-0317



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Jeri Kyner's mother, Dot Englebright, 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, 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, Dolly Koski's cousin, Tracey Valentine, Jim Koski's cousin's wife, Sandy and Gina Farnham's friend, Daisy Henckel and baby.

## LONG TERM CARE MINISTRY

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

**2:30 PM September 22**  
Worship at  
Cedar Wood Villa.

## ON FACEBOOK

Messiah Lutheran Church and The Willows both have Facebook pages. Just search for **Messiah Lutheran Church of Red Lodge** and for **The Willows at Red Lodge**.

You will see photos from recent events at Messiah, from Vacation Bible School, and, on The Willows page, you can watch the amazing construction progress unfolding at The Willows.

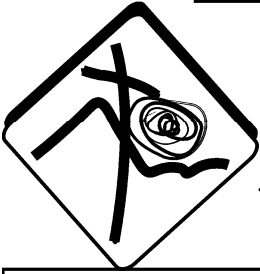


**PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you would like to be on either the telephone or email prayer chains and are not currently receiving prayer requests, please contact Jeri Kyner at 446-3323. To start a prayer request, contact Jeri Kyner by phone at 446-3323 or Judy Streets by email at [messiahprayers@gmail.com](mailto:messiahprayers@gmail.com) Please make sure you have accurate information and permission from the person you are calling about.



## Happy Anniversary

- 9/28—Jack & Lavonne Ervin
- 9/29—Dale & Luella Olson



## 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.

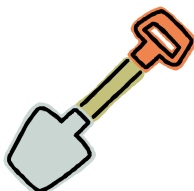
The cost will total at least \$6000. Materials and rebar cost \$3500 (Labor is donated). And the bid to remove the current driveway and hauling it away is nearly \$1800. Then new steps will have to be built.

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.

Please contribute what you can and earmark your check as DRIVEWAY.

Thank you for your help.  
Messiah Church Council



## HEAVENLY HARP CONCERT



**What:** Heavenly Harp Concert

**When:** September 22nd at 7 PM

**Where:** At Messiah

**Karin Gunderson** From an early age, Karin's life has been filled with music and faith. A graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, she is an accomplished vocalist, harpist, pianist and flutist. Her musical career has included work as a public school music teacher, a private music instructor, a church musician, and a performer. Singing songs of faith is her passion, and she has performed as a vocal soloist in concert halls and churches alike.

Please come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music as Karin shares her gift of music with us.

## SEPTEMBER BOOKCLUB

We will be reading the book called "The Year of Living Biblically" - "One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible" by A. J. Jacobs.

Our meeting will be at Myrna Hunt's home on Thursday, September 15

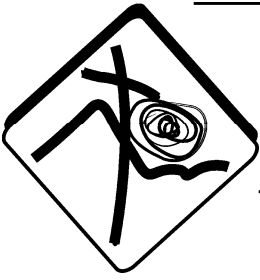
Sat 7:00 PM. Facilitator will be Ann Marie Christ.



## Family, Fun, Faith and Fellowship Night

Watch our church bulletin for details on September's Family, Fun, Faith, and Fellowship night; a signup sheet will be in the narthex soon. You won't want to miss it!





## SIMPLYFYING STEWARDSHIP

Why do People give to the Church?

1. They believe in what the church is doing.
2. They are confident that the church spends donations carefully and wisely.
3. They receive a positive feeling through giving.
4. They have heard the compelling story of the church's ministries.
5. They understand how they can make a difference through their giving.
6. They understand that everything they have is given to them by God.

## Yellow Ribbon Program: Raising Awareness and Supporting Troops and Families

The Yellow Ribbon Community unites all areas within a community to create a network that connects and coordinates agencies, organizations, resources and employers for the purpose of proactively supporting Service members and military families – past and present.

Messiah Lutheran Church is part of the Faith Based Working Group of this community with our mission being, establishing a network of churches to meet the needs of military service members, past and present and their families to provide spiritual support and counseling, such as meals, transportation, child care and military appreciation events. A condolence care plan has been developed and is ready for implementation if needed.

Messiah has participated serving meals to a family in Red Lodge who has a parent serving overseas. Our Faith Group will be planning a potluck to help welcome our service member home in later September.



## *Preventable. Treatable. Now.*

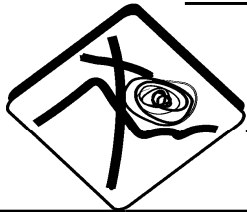
The [ELCA Malaria Campaign](#) was officially launched on Aug. 15 at the [2011 Churchwide Assembly](#). Members of this church will work together to raise \$15 million to help contain malaria worldwide.

Visit [elca.org](http://elca.org) for more information




Our Synod wants your opinion. About every two weeks a question will be asked regarding gratitude, generosity, mission and more. Just text the number 84700 with the latest "keyword" and you'll be asked to give your opinion on a specific question. For those who don't text you can call 1-877-253-9566 and leave a response.

The current "keyword" is: givehome Thanks!

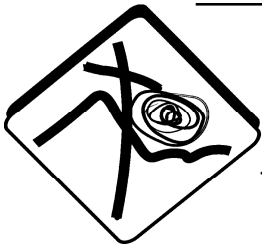


# Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|
|  |  |   |   | <b>1 1:00 PM</b><br>Knitting at Cedar Wood Villa with Mae                                     | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4 8:45 AM</b> Choir<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Worship<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Fellowship and Refreshments                  | <b>5</b><br><b>Labor Day</b><br> | <b>6 9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek                                   | <b>7 8:00 AM</b> Five Minute Prayers for Messiah  | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   |
| <b>11 8:45 AM</b> Choir<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Worship<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Sunday Forum<br>Fall Women's Retreat begins | <b>12 8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Drummers<br>Fall Women's Retreat                             | <b>13</b> Fall Women's Retreat through lunchtime  | <b>14 8:00 AM</b> Five Minute Prayers for Messiah | <b>15 7:00 PM</b> Book Club at Myrna Hunt's   | <b>16</b> | <b>S 17</b>   |
| <b>18 8:45 AM</b> Choir<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Worship<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Sunday Forum                                | <b>19 8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Drummers   | <b>20 9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek                                  | <b>21 8:00 AM</b> Five Minute Prayers for Messiah | <b>22 2:30 PM</b> Cedar Wood Villa Worship<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Heavenly Harp Concert at Messiah | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>   |
| <b>25 8:45 AM</b> Choir<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Worship<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Sunday Forum                                | <b>26 8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Drummers   | <b>27 9:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study Group @ Bridge Creek<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Church Council | <b>28 8:00 AM</b> Five Minute Prayers for Messiah | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b> | <b>1 5:00 PM</b> A Life of Martin Luther, Church of the Good Shepherd, Billings |
| <b>Red Lodge AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays &amp; Sundays at 7:00 PM at Messiah.</b>                               |  |   |   |   |           |   |

Pastor Wilker will be at Continuing Education and Synod Meetings September 12-18



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## Highlights of August Council Meeting

This month's financial reports recapped the monthly and year-to-date activity for 2011 and provided a 5 year trend analysis to offer guidance for the Council in its development of the 2012 General Fund budget. Items of note include:

1. Although General Fund giving declined by approximately \$9,000 from 2009 to 2010, as of the end of July 2011, it is approximately \$6,000 ahead of the 2010 giving level for the same period.
2. When reviewing the 2006 through 2010 actual General Fund giving and expenses totals, the expenses have exceeded giving for 4 of the 5 years in the review.
3. A 3 year review of the balance sheet data revealed that the Mission Investment Fund (the church's "savings account") has decreased from a 2008 total of \$94,628.17 to \$47,083.44, as of July 31, 2011. However, it should be noted that about \$30,000 of this difference was taken from the Building Fund line item and used to pay down the mortgage on the Hwy 212 land.
4. July's General Fund giving (\$13,236) exceeded July's General Fund expenses (\$8,790.36). Additionally, the July 2011 General Fund giving exceeded the July 2010 General Fund by \$2,986.50.
5. The year-to-date General Fund expenses (\$78,097.89) have exceeded year-to-date General Fund giving (\$68,818.12) by \$9,279. However, the year-to-date General Fund giving for 2011 exceeds the year-to-date General Fund giving for 2010 by \$5,976.64.
6. LIB giving for June through August 21<sup>st</sup> period has been \$17,065. The Council authorized the Treasurer be to make an interest and principal payment of at least \$17,000 on September 1, 2011. With this payment the outstanding principle balance should be approximately \$100,000.

It was also noted that \$1,890 has been collected for parsonage's driveway project. The total bids for this project amount to \$5,284.

The Council will seek the congregation's input in identifying how we can implement God's mission within the realistic fiscal limits of our giving.

The Council is concerned about the development of a fiscally responsible 2012 General Fund budget yet recognizes that there are continuing maintenance needs in both the church and parsonage.

Committee reports were received. Messiah has been asked by the Food Partnership group to provide a children's activity table at the September 30<sup>th</sup> Farmer's Market. The VBS program was well received by about 20 total students and well supported by volunteers from the church and community. The insurance adjustor has assessed the total hail damage for the roofs of the church and parsonage at \$17,420 and authorized a check for \$2,750, reflecting the depreciated value for the damages. However, we are soliciting bids from roofers for repairing the roofs and will submit an insurance claim for the bid and potentially receive additional funds to get the necessary repairs made. We are still waiting on our contractors to start of the Parsonage driveway project. The Stewardship committee is working on developing the annual stewardship campaign themes and materials and will work in conjunction with the Family Life committee to hold a Festival dinner in October. At the recent Churchwide Assembly the following actions were taken:

The ELCA has officially launched its Malaria Campaign;

No new social statements will be adopted until the revision process for social statements has been approved;

The "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" social statement was adopted;

The 2012-2013 Budget proposals were adopted.

Pastor Kim is on the Anti-Bullying Task Force for Montana Synod and noted that it was interesting that congregations have no policy concerning anti-bullying but all social agencies are required to have an anti-bullying policy. Pastor Kim will be doing a continuing education program and attending the MT Synod Council between September 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, a copy of the Approved July 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

## SEPTEMBER 2011 Newsletter

Return Service Requested



### *Christmas Kids' Shoppe*

There are only 3 months until our annual Christmas Kids' Shoppe. Please remember us when doing your Fall house cleaning. If you have items that would make nice gifts for kids' families, please bring them to the Church basement and put them in the south west room labeled "**Christmas Kids' Shoppe Room**". Thank you!

#### **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](http://www.redlodgemessiah.com)  
Email: [churchoffice@180com.net](mailto: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.*