

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Grace Note, April, 2008

From the Pastor

When I was on internship Pastor John Walker, my supervisor, always had the same headline in the newsletter when they welcomed new members: "First new faces, then new members, now new friends." I thought that was a nice way to put it.

On Sunday, March 30th we welcomed almost 20 new members into our congregation. Some of them are new faces, and some of them have been with us for a little while now. All of them bring new gifts and new energy to our fellowship.

It strikes me that becoming a new face is the job of the individual who hopes to be one. What I mean is, the new person had to make a choice to visit Messiah. After that, it's up to us who are already here to carry the ball. It is our job to welcome people, to make them feel at home, and to be sure that they are given the opportunity to offer their gifts to all of us.

For some people that is easy. For some, however, it can be very difficult. Meeting new people causes stress for many folks. We can become very comfortable with the people we have known for a long time, and we sometimes don't realize that we are keeping new relationships at bay.

The solution to this issue is to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zone. When you see a new face, go and introduce yourself. Learn something about them, memorize their name. The next time you see them you have the opportunity to go deeper. When you are at church and you see someone sitting alone, sit next to them. Help them with our liturgy (it can sometimes be very confusing for visitors). If you are at a church fellowship event be sure to take the opportunity to get to know someone new. Invite new members into whatever ministry you are a part of. It's always amazing what a fresh perspective can do.

If we want new faces and new members to be new friends, we have to work at it. It can be the most rewarding experience one can have in the community of faith. Christ welcomed all, let's follow that model and make Messiah a place full of wonderful friendships.

In Christ's name,



There's a place
for you at Messiah

WELLNESS NOTE

“CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.” PSALM 51:10

As we turn the calendar again, we inch closer to thoughts of spring. The days are growing longer and lighter. March signals a time for spring cleaning. The deep cleaning that allows us to remove those things that seem to fill our spaces, clothes we no longer wear, shoes that don't fit, things more useful that have become clutter.

The psalmist prays to God for a clean heart. As we approach Holy Week, we are reminded that Christ emptied his heart in love and compassion for us, God's broken people. Often our hearts are crowded with clutter, harsh thoughts, frantic busyness, anxiety, pain, loneliness, and grief. Hearts so full of chaos that Christ's love and light becomes buried under all the clutter. Through Christ's death on the cross, we receive the ultimate cleansing and forgiveness. We no longer have to live overwhelmed by the world's demands. We are new creations through Christ.



As we seek to live well in Christ, let us do some spiritual deep cleaning. Make room for the resurrected Christ to reign in your heart. Ask God for the strength and conviction to share your love relationship with Christ into our weary world. Live out of the hope we have through our Savior and share an attitude of gratitude for the gift of Christ's cleansing love. Happy spring cleaning, Alleluia!

Lift up your hearts! We lift them up to the Lord.

Tammy Devine, Diaconal Minister
Wellness Coordinator

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Quest, May, 2005

Submitted by Peg Wilt and Kathy Strom, Wellness Chairpersons,
Nancy Coleman, Secretary

YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

On Saturday, May 3, members of our congregation are invited to participate in CityServe 2008. This project sponsored by Building Hope in the City gives individuals and groups an opportunity to serve for one day in various types of urban ministry settings. We will begin at 8:00 a.m. at Lutheran West High School where we will be dispatched to our ministry sites and return at 2:30 for a worship service and community dinner. The cost is \$10 per person which includes lunch, dinner, and a tee shirt. If you are interested in participating please sign up in the reception area. Either sign up or call the office by Sunday, April 20th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

Worship Participation: On April 27th, the Beginner Department will be serving as Greeters at the 11:00 service and Grades 2 & 3 will be Ushers.

Lenten Pretzels: Thanks to all who bought our Lenten pretzels this year! As you know, all proceeds from this worthwhile activity will be used to buy fruit trees for Heifer International. A special thank you to Jayne Imel and Diane Herold who organized the whole operation!

Easter Program: The Easter Program was a great success! Thank you to all who participated but especially our director, Jay Imel.

Teacher of the Month: Check out the display cabinet outside the conference room for our “Teachers of the Month” display. Our April teachers are Sue Joliat and Jay Imel (High School). Don’t forget to say “Hello and Thanks” when you see these very special people.



In His service,
Cheryl Moser
Sunday School Superintendent

Excerpts from March 18, 2008 Council Meeting

Pastor's Report: Pastor Fox reported that in February he made 5 home visits, 3 hospital visits, 6 visits in the office. He conducted new member classes for 7 families (20 members). He attended a continuing education event at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Butler distributed the February, 2008 Financial Report. He reported that to date this year we are \$7,500 behind what we were at this time last year in pledge income. At the end of February we had a deficit of \$1,700.

Property Committee: Spring Work Day will be on Saturday, June 14, starting at 9:00 a.m. for planting flowers, painting, etc. Committee would like to create a garden committee. A lock on the Sunday School office door has been installed. The air conditioning project was discussed. We have received three quotes to date ranging from \$20,000 to \$28,000.

Youth: A Youth Sunday is being planned for April 13th.

Evangelism: A reception will be held on New Member Sunday, March 30th. 25 copies of the Lutheran Digest (issued quarterly) have been ordered for the year. It is recommended that they be read and then left elsewhere for others to read.

Fellowship: A Mystery Meal event is being planned for the last Saturday in April.

Air Conditioning: It was moved by Chris Butler, seconded by Terry Trentini to focus our search for an air conditioning system on a ductless split system only. Motion passed.

Abitibi Paper Retriever Program: Pastor Fox distributed information about this paper recycle program which was brought to our attention by Sharon Stork. A recycle bin would be set up in our parking lot for use by the neighborhood as well as Messiah people. The church would receive \$15 a ton which is one bin full. It was moved by Carrie Skaggs, seconded by Nancy Durst that we adopt the Abitibi Paper Retriever Program.

Campus Crusade: One of our members, Karen Dickerson, is Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of Akron. She has a friend in Campus Crusade who would like to come and talk to our congregation and set up a table to answer questions. It was moved by Nancy Durst, seconded by Shirley Drotleff, to have the representative from Campus Crusade come to talk to the congregation on a Sunday.



April Birthdays

- 2 Eileen Thompson
 3 Sarah Helmeba
 Ellen Santos
 6 Nancy Coleman
 Peter Halemba
 Dean Lecy
 7 Elden Campbell
 9 Louise Katlen
 13 Esther Hodgkinson
 14 Kim Broerman
 Hunter Jeppe
 Kaden Jeppe
 15 Alison Griffith
 16 Cheryl Wantz
 18 Lorie Marsalis
 21 Bonnie Voigt
 25 Twyla Lucas
 Irene Rogner
 27 Judy Miele
 29 Jill Boehler
 30 Darla Beckman



PLEASE PRAY for Sue Joliat, Lisa Perry, Nicole Joliat, Lawson and Phyllis Anderson, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Alma Fanto, Jack Ferree, Paul Bright, Murawski Family, Ann Marie MacBride, Trenton Howard and Family, Bill Dvorak, Ray Miller, Paul Hoffman, Bob Kavesmaki, Michael Gross.



THE LITERARY LADIES OF MESSIAH May selection is *In this House of Brede*, by Rumor Godden. This extraordinarily sensitive and insightful portrait of religious life centers on Philippa Talbot, a highly successful professional woman who leaves her life among the London elite to join a cloistered Benedictine community. The group will meet Tuesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, April 17th at 12:00 noon. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by Nancy Durst. Pastor Fox will continue the Bible Study on "Women of the Old Testament."

YOUTH SUNDAY will be on April 13th with our young people leading us in worship. Be sure to attend and support them.

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY will resume on April 9th (a week later than previously announced) at 6:30 p.m. We will study the Book of Romans.



THE MEN'S LUNCHEON IN APRIL will be held on April 25th at Milano's Restaurant, located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road.

MANY THANKS to all the folks who supplied special music for the Wednesday night and other Lenten services: Paul Stork for his vocal solo and dulcimer accompaniment, Susan Milner and Jay Imel for their vocal solos, Elise Hassink and Nancy Pittard and Nancy Pittard and Carol Soltesz for their handbell duets, Abbey and Anna Fox for their vocal duet, Vicki Lester for her vocal solo on Good Friday, and to Vicki Lester and Laurene Pride, accompanists.

WE WELCOMED INTO MEMBERSHIP the following people on Sunday, March 30th:

Heather Englander 440 201-6127
1684 Lyndhurst Road, Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Terry and Sue Howe 216 382-5438
1491 Felton Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Melissa Howe 216 382-5438
1491 Felton Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Jim and Anita Meyer 440 605-9113
Corey, Julie
6757 Bramblewood, Mayfield Village 44143

Fritz and Myriam Neil 216 751-8941
Thomas, Lawrence, Emma
3090 Woodbury Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Andrew and Sarah Pernsteiner 216 849-1762
Jake (2 years)
3279 Dorchester Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Raymond and Gail Sabolich 440 749-4555
2508 Derbyshire Road Apt. 2, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

Richard and Darina Sheridan 216 281-2792
1384 Plainfield Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121



FIRST COMMUNION RECIPIENTS: Four of our fifth graders, Corey Best, Anna Fox, Stephanie Lamb, and Shannon Perry, after attending classes with Pastor Fox for several weeks, received Holy Communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jennifer Butler who has been nominated for the 2008 Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and to Christopher Butler who has been nominated for the 2008 Carl F. Wittke Award and for the 2008 J. Bruce Jackson, M.D., Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring.



REMINDER: 2100 Lakeside, the men's homeless shelter, will be in need of spring and summer clothing. Please bring in men's clothing, socks, toiletries and leave in the collection room

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Return Service Requested

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