

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Grace Note, May, 2008

From the Pastor

I found something today that I wanted to share with you (I did slightly modify it):

It All Depends Upon Whose Hand It Is In

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$20. A basketball in the hands of LeBron James is worth \$14,410,581.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6. A baseball in hands of C.C. Sabathia's hands is worth \$11,000,000.

A golf club in my hands is useless. A golf club in the hands of Tiger Wood's hands is worth \$8,000,000 (plus \$80,000,000 in endorsements!)

A rod in my hand might keep a wild animal at bay. A rod in Moses' hand will part the mighty sea.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and five loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands.

It all depends on whose hand it's in.

- Source Unknown

As I write this, the Cavs are in the playoffs. Their strategy seems to revolve around getting the ball in to the hands of LeBron James. In truth, it's not a bad plan... give the ball to someone who can make things happen. That's why he makes the big bucks!

The same principle holds true in our lives as well.

Each of us has been given gifts. These gifts are our talents, our time and our possessions. Our tendency is to want to hold onto these things too tightly. We feel they belong to us and we guard them jealously. The problem is that we aren't the ones who can use what we have been given to its fullest extent. We need to get them into the hands of someone who can make things happen. We need to give them to the Lord.

That boy who gave over his bread and fish to Jesus had a nice little lunch for himself. But when he gave it to the Lord, thousands ate. That's what God does. LeBron James may be able to turn a basketball into a goldmine, but Christ transforms what we put in his hands into miracles.

Share what you have been given. The Lord has need of you. As we used to say in elementary school; "don't be a ball hog."

Your gifts can be a burden or a joy. It all depends on whose hand they're in.

In Christ's name,



WELLNESS NOTE

"On your Mind"

CALM YOUR SOCIAL ANXIETY

Do large parties give you that butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling? Do you feel nervous when you have to speak in even small groups of people? Then take these actions to keep anxiety under control and better manage social situations.

Avoid caffeine and nicotine. They can make anxiety worse.

When you feel anxious, do something with that energy. Take a walk, dance or exercise.

Manage your overall health. Get plenty of sleep, eat a healthy diet and exercise regularly.

Keep a journal or talk about your feelings with a friend, spouse or licensed mental health counselor.

Practice diaphragmatic breathing, inhale slowly through your nose. Hold a full breath for a moment, then slowly exhale. If you're breathing correctly, your abdomen will rise as you exhale.

Avoid drugs and alcohol.

Make time to relax. Regular deep relaxation can help counter anxiety. Try yoga, meditation, or visual imagery.

Use positive self-talk. Instead of imagining worst-case scenarios, criticizing yourself or holding unreasonably high standards, give yourself positive messages.

If social situations make you so nervous and anxious that your everyday life is affected, see your doctor or a licensed mental health professional. You may have a social anxiety disorder and treatment can help.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Quest, August 2006

Contributed by Peg Wilt and Kathy Strom, Wellness Co-chairpersons,
Nancy Coleman, Secretary

IT'S COOKBOOK TIME!

Purchase your Messiah Cookbooks outside the conference room on April 27, May 4 and May 11, for the nominal fee of \$15, or 2 for \$25. These make wonderful Mother's Day gifts while supporting our Sunday School. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church – Cookbooks.

EXCERPTS FROM APRIL 15, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING



Pastor's Report: Pastor Fox reported that in March he made 5 hospital visits, 4 home visits, 2 visits in the office. He conducted new member classes for 7 families (20 members). He planned and conducted Holy Week and Easter services and preached at a Good Friday service at LCPC. He announced his vacation plans: He will be away Sunday, June 8th. He will be gone from June 28 returning July 8, and from August 2 returning August 9. The NEO Synod Assembly will be held in Akron on May 16-17. Elise and Marty Hassink will be our delegates and attend with Pastor Fox.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Butler reported that to date this year we are \$7,000 behind what we were at this time last year in pledge income. At the end of March we had a deficit of \$7,600.

Christian Ed: Sue Joliat reported that 32 children participated in Youth Sunday and that the response was very positive. May 11th will be Confirmation Sunday. May 17th will be a Teacher Work Day, and May 18th is the last day of Sunday School. An "End of the Year" party will be held in the fellowship hall from 9:45-10:45. In May equipment for the Media Center will begin to be ordered. Scholarship applications have been sent to High School seniors. VBS will be June 16-20 from 6pm – 8:30 pm. Supper will be served at 6:00.

Youth: Pastor will be taking youth to participate in CityServe 2008, an inner city service project. Paul Soltesz will shadow Pastor Fox in May as a Senior Project.

Evangelism: The committee organized an Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter, and a reception on New Member Sunday, March 30th. The Lutheran Digest has been made available. It is recommended that they be read and then left elsewhere for others to read.

Fellowship: A Mystery Meal Night is being planned for the last Saturday in April. A Pool Party will be on Sunday, June 22nd at Parkview Pool in Mayfield Village.

Air Conditioning: Pastor Fox, Chris Kovach and Fred Moser visited Zion Lutheran Church in Akron to check out their system which is a ductless split system which we are considering. They are pleased with the operation except for a condensation problem when the system first starts up. Bill Hann says this can be a problem and the room needs to be kept dehumidified by running the units at a low temperature during the week. The cost of the units is \$18,390, plus between \$3,800 and \$4,500 for the electrical work, making a total of \$23,190, plus the permit. We have \$25,755 available. It was moved by Karen Dlugosz, seconded by Terry Trentini to accept the Property Committee's proposal for the purchase of air conditioning. Motion passed.

Abitibi Paper Retriever Program: Pastor Fox talked to the representative again and the unit will be placed in the rear of the parking lot in the next two weeks as decided by Council at the April meeting.

Garden Committee: Lois Ehlenfeldt has expressed an interest in keeping the church's planting and courtyard looking nice. She has recruited several people who are also interested.

DiCicco Pre-Funeral Planning Seminar: The DiCicco Funeral Home would like to have a meeting on May 22, at our church about Pre-Funeral Planning as a public service. It was moved by Carrie Skaggs, seconded by Carla Wollens to allow DiCicco Funeral Home to have a pre-funeral planning meeting at Messiah. Motion passed.

Families Anonymous Request: It was moved by Nancy Durst, seconded by Chris Kovach to allow Families Anonymous to meet at Messiah in the conference room on Friday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm.

ATTENTION TEACHERS, SUBSTITUTES AND HELPERS

Saturday, May 17th is our Teacher Work Day beginning at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided as we make our student awards, organize unused curriculum, clean out closets and prepare breakfast for Sunday, May 18th – the last day of Sunday School.

Sunday, May 18th is our “End of the Year” celebration. Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to the fellowship hall at 9:45 for presentation of awards to students and teachers. Breakfast will be provided.

YOUTH SUNDAY WAS TERRIFIC with 32 children and youth participating at the 11:00 service

Anonymous Responses:

“...Sunday service was awesome. It was impressive seeing all of the kids taking part in the service and doing such a great job...”

“...What a great service....so many kids, so many parents, so much conversation! Bravo!”

“...The young people seemed happy and comfortable in their roles. That is so meaningful in the church. Obviously they are being taught the importance of service to the Lord. We older folks need to see their enthusiasm and willingness to serve.”

“...What a wonderful service today.....an enthusiastic service and reception pulling the ‘church group’ and ‘Sunday school group’ together.”

From a 4th grader who “has been hearing this song in my head since Sunday”:

My God, My Lord, My Savior

My love is infinite

We are his sheep and He is our shepherd

No wolf could ever snatch us even if he tried

He calls us by our own name

To show He loves us the same.

“...Thank you so all who pulled this service together. The joy from this service is still with me days later. The children, youth, teachers and staff are incredible. Let’s make Youth Sunday a tradition at Messiah. Way to go Christian Education Committee!...”

JOIN THE FUN - MAY 11

The Intermediate Department will be hosting an Olympic Bible Review on Sunday, May 11th during the Sunday School hour. Join us in the fellowship hall for this fun-filled review session.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be held on the Day of Pentecost, May 11th during the 11:00 service, followed by a reception to celebrate Abbey Fox's Confirmation.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Katie Cannata	17	Clay Lindeman
	Kelly Cannata	19	Samantha Buemi
	Jennifer Carver	20	Michael Beucler
2	Sarah Link	22	Ricky Jennings
	Beth Wantz	24	Kristen Bradshaw
3	Dana Shepka		Robert Buemi
5	Bill Beucler	25	Emily Maharg
6	Alexis Janzen		Gail Patton
7	Karen Zak	27	Elise Hassink
8	Eloise Lecy	28	Marie Maharg
9	Christopher Quellmalz	29	William Maurer
10	Robert Shepka	31	Kristine Beucler
11	Laura Bisphan		Fred Dalasta
13	John Brunton		Margaret Wilt
16	Stacy Buemi		



PLEASE PRAY FOR: Phyllis Anderson, Emilie Quellmalz, Lisa Perry, Nicole Joliat, Lawson Anderson, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Alma Fanto, Jack Ferree, Paul Bright, Murawski Family, Arlene Cohen, David Phillips, Mary Ann Farr, Bill Dvorak, Marjorie Koopman, Amanda and Andy Little, Riva Reznichenko, Gladys Elliott, John Coco and Family.

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 18th will be our last day of Sunday School for the year. We will be having a Teacher Appreciation Continental Breakfast during the Sunday School hour along with Student/Teacher Awards. Please come with your child and enjoy our last day of Sunday School together!



TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Check out the display cabinet outside the conference room for our “Teachers of the Month” display. Our May teachers are Pastor Fox, Sue McDicken, Aimee Swartz, Amy Kovach, Irene Rogner. Don’t forget to say “Hello and Thanks” when you see these very special people.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. Don't forget to turn in your scholarship forms as soon as possible.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES.....Tell us about your graduations and future plans. Send your news to office@messiahlyndhurst.org or contact the church office.



FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, May 15th at 12:00 noon. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by Hostess Phyllis Short. Pastor Fox will continue the Bible Study on “Women of the Old Testament.”

THE MEN’S LUNCHEON IN MAY will be held on May 23rd at Milano’s Restaurant, located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road.

BAPTISMS

On April 13th at the 8:30 service we welcomed into membership through Holy Baptism David Hamilton Dinnen and baby John David Dinnen. David and Rebecca are John David’s parents. He was born October 19, 2007, and his sponsors are Thomas Powers and Rachel Bilczo.

At the 11:00 service on April 13th Pastor Fox baptized Grant Taylor Trier. He was born February 11, 2008, the son of Lyn and Stephen Trier. Grant’s sponsors are Daniel and Holly Wytko.



At 9:45 AM
With One Service Each Sunday
Begins on June 1st
Our Summer Worship Schedule

Messiah Lutheran Church
5200 Mayfield Road
Lyndhurst OH 44124

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
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Dated Information
Please deliver by
May 1, 2008