

## Messiah Lutheran Church

5200 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst OH 44124  
440-442-6941

office@messiahlyndhurst.org  
pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org  
www.messiahlyndhurst.org

# Grace Note, November, 2008

This one comes from Caskei Stinnett in the book Speaking of Holiday on and on.

*"A fellow in our office told us recently of a household incident of which he had been an innocent but perplexed spectator. Our friend had called a Venetian-blind repairman to come pick up a faulty blind, and the next morning, while the family was seated at the breakfast table, the doorbell rang. Our friend's wife went to the door, and the man outside said, 'I'm here for the Venetian blind.' Excusing herself in a preoccupied way, the wife went to the kitchen, fished a dollar from the food money, pressed it into the repairman's hand, then gently closed the door and returned to the table. 'Just collecting for charity,' she explained, pouring the coffee."*

I don't know about you, but in my neighborhood it seems there is always someone selling something to raise money for this or that charitable organization. Here at Messiah's office I get many, many letters telling me about great charitable organizations that need funds to continue. At the same time I encounter many people a month who call or stop by asking for financial assistance. At home and at work, I am being asked for money seemingly all the time. It's only a matter of time before someone comes around taking a collection for the "Venetian blind."

The truth is, we can't give to everybody. There are many needs and we all have limited resources. My fear, though, is that we often use that as an excuse to keep the gifts God has given us to ourselves.

One of the primary concerns of the Scriptures is how a follower of God uses what has been given to them. Jesus praised a widow who gives her last coins. The Old Testament teaches us of the need to tithe (give 10% of our income away). Jesus tells us that to everyone who has been given much, much will be required. The list goes

I think that it might be best summed up in these words from our Lord; "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What's interesting to me is the order that Jesus puts it in. He tells us that our heart follows our pocketbook. Normally we would think it would be the other way around. If our heart is somewhere, that's where we put our money. This may be true, but Jesus points out that when we put our money somewhere, then our heart goes into it as well.

Think about a simple illustration. Normally I wouldn't care who wins a game between the Lions and the Rams. But if I bet a dinner on it... voila! I instantly become very interested. When the score updates scroll by, I will pay attention. I have something invested in this game.

Is the same thing true about our faith? I think so. When we give to Christ's ministry through church or other charities we become invested in the work that Jesus is doing in our midst. We become involved. We care.

In the coming weeks you are going to be hearing a lot about stewardship and the church's campaign to raise pledges. I challenge you to look at this not as just another group trying to get your money. Instead, open yourself to this opportunity to become invested in what God is doing in this world through the people of Messiah Lutheran Church. We want you to be a part of that.

In Christ's name,

Pastor Fox



*Messiah! We Say Yes!*

# **Come to Our Inspiration** **Breakfast**

**Commitment Sunday ~ November 16<sup>th</sup>**

A Pancake Breakfast will be served from 9:00 – 11:00  
Between the early and late service in the Fellowship Hall  
Enjoy special music and pancakes served by your Pastor  
and Stewardship Committee.

**You may call the church office at 440-442-6941 to  
make reservations or sign up in person at church.  
There is no charge for the breakfast.**

We are looking forward to gathering with our Messiah  
Family and hope to see YOU there!



### **Christian, what have you done?**

As Christians, we each struggle busy daily schedules full of family and work obligations. Many of us awake early, help our families get a start on their busy days, work a full time job, and serve our church, communities, and families in so many ways.

We may not have a lot of time, but we each have some time. Each of us spends different amounts of time in Bible study, prayer, and church activities. God knows the right amount of time and devotion for each of us. He will bless each of us for living in obedience for what He's calling us to do in our daily lives.

God understands our schedules and responsibilities. He promises us that any time that we devote to Him will be blessed and multiplied many times over for living in obedience to His desire for each of our lives.

God loves each of us deeply and intimately and all that He asks of each of us is to try in some way to get to know Him in a deeper and more intimate way.

Are you willing in love and commitment to Him to spend some daily time with Jesus?

### **Christian, where is your brother?**

All Christians have received God's grace and we are all called upon to help those who need it—the poor, the sick, the young, the old, and all who need our prayer and concern.

Is there an elderly member who could use help running errands or just needs a friend to visit and to provide company and friendship? Is there a single parent who could use some free child care to have a "mental health" afternoon alone? Is there a woman who has a husband serving in Iraq who needs help in caring for her home or car? We can all make serving others a priority in our service to our Heavenly Father. In doing this service, we will be sharing Jesus' love and serving others in His name.

**" Say "Yes" to God's call, become a steward of God's mysteries. God has some wonderful surprises in store for you!**



- COFFEE
- TEA
- COCOA & CHOCOLATE
- SUGAR
- SNACKS

## Social Ministry Committee's Fair Trade Program



Buy Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate and snacks at wholesale prices while supporting Lutheran World Relief.

On Sundays November 23 & 30, after both church services, Fritz Neil will be taking orders for all items available on the LWR coffee project web

store: <http://www.lwrcoffee.com>. A complete product list with pricing is posted on the Social Ministry Committee's bulletin board. We receive wholesale pricing and free shipping, but there is an extra charge of \$.50/bag if ordering a mixed case. Call Fritz for more info: 216.469.3836. Chocolate now ships free too, just in time for the holidays.

For all coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, and snacks purchased through the LWR Coffee Project, \$.20 per pound is given back to Lutheran World Relief for projects supporting small-scale coffee farmers. By purchasing Fair Trade items, we create stronger local communities, a more just food system and a healthier planet.

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Carrie Skaggs                          |
| 4  | Nicole Joliat                          |
| 6  | Gregory Shepka                         |
| 7  | Sue Joliat<br>Janet Scott              |
| 8  | Jim Makee, Jr.<br>Erich Quellmalz, Jr. |
| 9  | Charles McDicken                       |
| 11 | David Bregitzer<br>Sarah McDicken      |
| 12 | Lawson Anderson                        |
| 14 | Anna Fox                               |
| 16 | Michael Lester                         |
| 18 | Mary Lou Bregitzer<br>Jim Vaccarino    |
| 19 | Alex Bill                              |
| 23 | Jim Makee, Sr.                         |
| 26 | Cameron Halberg<br>Nancy Pittard       |
| 27 | Stella Marasko<br>Shannon Perry        |
| 28 | Robby Bradshaw<br>David Csumitta       |
| 30 | Erich Quellmalz, Sr.                   |



**PLEASE PRAY** for Nils Pearson, Lisa Perry, Carol Lindeman, David Phoenix and the Phoenix family, Phyllis and Lawson Anderson, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Jack Ferree, Murawski Family, Jeremy, Margurite Gardner, Gladys Elliott, Todd Skiba, Samantha Power, Cristina Camardese, Rose Rossi, Douglas Shroyer, Ruth Waits, Carolyn Smith and Barb, the family of Bea Schreck, Spike Meredith, Dave Meredith, Gerry Jankowski, Scott Frock, Jodi Rosenstein

**Give  
Thanks**



**OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING EVE  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

will be held.

**Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.**

**Invite family, friends and neighbors  
to offer thanks to God with you.**

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING** will be held Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> immediately following the 11 o'clock worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2009 Proposed Budget, to elect officers, council members, an audit committee member, nominating committee members, and to conduct any other business that should come before the congregation. Your presence and your participation are needed at this important event in the life of our congregation.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND PLAN TO ATTEND.**



**THE MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON** will be held on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at noon at Milano's Restaurant located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road. Please note that the date has been moved to the third Friday so as not to coincide with Thanksgiving week.

**THANK YOU THRIVENT**

Please note that we will be applying for matching funds from Thrivent for "TRUNK or TREAT" and the TALENT SHOW SPAGHETTI DINNER.

**FAITH CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by hostess Ellen Santos. Pastor Fox will continue to lead a study of "Women of the Old Testament."

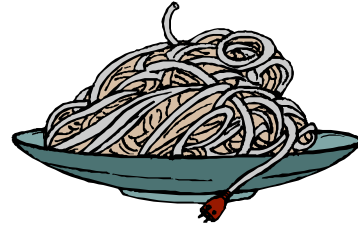


**PSST....ADVENT IS COMING!**  
And with that is the Messiah Lutheran Choir's  
performance of  
**"CRADLE THAT ROCKED THE WORLD"**

A new twist on tradition.  
Join them at the 11 o'clock service  
on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
and hear the joyous sounds of the season!

## **TALENT SHOW AND SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Join the fun and share your talent on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 pm. here at the church Enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Youth Group as a fund raiser. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Children 6 and under are free.



**OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE** for New Covenant Hunger Center continues through November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please bring non-perishable canned or packaged food items and cleaning supplies but no glass containers. A table is located outside the conference room in the rear entrance.



## **TOYS FOR NEW COVENANT**

Christmas is coming and we will again collect new or gently used toys for New Covenant, beginning November 2, through December 7. Think of others while doing your Christmas shopping and pick up an extra toy or two to donate. Consider teaching your children the value of giving by having them pick out a toy or donate things they no longer play with to those less fortunate. Used toys should be clean and in operating order, with batteries included if needed.

## **AMONG OUR MEMBERS**

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS** to Bethany Hassink and Gregory Lorig who were joined in Holy Wedlock at Messiah on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Fox officiated at the ceremony.

**WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of Bea Schreck, a former long time member of Messiah, who passed away in October.

**THE KOVACH FAMILY** has a new address: 212 Clouter Creek Drive, Charleston, SC 29492.

Phone 843-737-3300 or 440-463-2670. Email: [call.kovach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:call.kovach@sbcglobal.net)

Visit their family blog at <http://ckovachfamily.blogspot.com>. You will enjoy pictures and commentary

## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Ladies of Messiah, it's time to start collecting for Transitional Housing and Domestic Violence. The Wish List includes paper products, toilet tissue, cleaning supplies, wash cloths and small towels, toiletries and twin sheets and pillowcases. Look for the complete Wish List on the bulletin board. Please bring items to the Donation Room during the month of November labeled "Transitional Housing. For questions call 216-382-7397. -Bette Schmidt, C.W.U. Representative



## **EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**

**Pastor's Report:** In September Pastor made 10 home visits, 4 hospital calls, had 4 office visits, attended 8 committee meetings, and conducted 2 funerals for relatives of members. He attended an Eastern Conference Synod Meeting, a Synod Wellness Day, a Synod Boundary Workshop, and taught four classes.

**Treasurer's Report:** The deficit increased by \$3,000. We are \$8,500 behind last year in pledges at this time. Chris is forecasting a \$8,000 deficit at the end of the year.

**Property Committee:** The committee heard a presentation on Nature Stone. Committee members will inspect sites where it has been installed. The Fall Work day was well attended and a lot accomplished both inside and outside.

**Christian Ed:** The Media Center has been completed. Now working on guidelines, procedures, and labeling. "Trunk or Treat" will be held October 25, from 3-5:00 p.m. The Kid's Christmas Program is being planned by Pastor Fox, Vicki Lester, and Jen Butler. The Christian Ed Committee would like to prepare the Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper.

**Worship:** We will be using Setting 5, from With One Voice on November 16<sup>th</sup> and the following third Sundays of the month. 50 -55 members attended the outdoor guitar services held this summer. Guitar services held once each quarter are being planned..

**Social Ministry:** Angel Food Ministries received 110 orders in October. The Thanksgiving Food Drive is in progress. Toys for Tots will be collected November 2, through December 7. Committee will meet on November 20.

**Stewardship:** A pancake breakfast is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Morgan from a Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh will be the speaker.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** The committee has presented the following slate: VP/President – Carrie Skaggs; Treasurer – Chris Butler; Secretary – Carla Wollens; Council Representatives (3 year term) – Fred Moser, Jill Levine; Council Representative (1 year term – to complete term of Chris Kocach) – Kirk Maharg; Audit Committee – Mary Zimmerman; Nominating Committee – Chris McCord, Lisa Halberg.

### **Reminder – Annual Meeting – November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**2009 Proposed Budget:** Budget was presented by Karen Dlugosz and Chris Butler. It was moved by Carla Wollens, seconded by Kirk Maharg to accept the 2009 Proposed Budget and present it to the congregation at the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting.

**OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING EVE  
WORSHIP SERVICE**  
will be held.  
Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.  
Invite family, friends and neighbors  
to offer thanks to God with you.

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
5200 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst OH 44124

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 1317

**Dated Information**  
**Please deliver by**  
**November 1, 2008**