

Grace Note, May, 2009

Letter from the Pastor

Any pastor will tell you that the Easter Season is a busy time. There are extra worship services for Lenten Wednesday's, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. That is, of course, capped off by the biggest service of the year, Easter Sunday and the surrounding hoopla. It can sometimes be a bit of a challenge to get through, for a pastor and a congregation.

Most churches kind of hit a lull in the action after Easter. It's a well deserved rest for Pastor and people. Unfortunately, things don't always go as planned. That's the way it was for Messiah these past few weeks.

Starting April 2 – April 20th, a period of 18 days, we had 5 different members of Messiah spending time in the hospital. That meant 25 hospital calls in those 18 days for your pastor. Sadly, one of our well beloved members, Mariana Treu, passed away at the end of that period. Not really much of a rest for me or for many in our congregation. More important than the physical toll it takes is the emotional and spiritual stress this puts on so many at Messiah.

We at Messiah are a family. As a family we share each other's lives and all the joy and sorrow that go along with that. We are a family. But let us always remember that we are a family because we are the children of God. When we walk together through good times and bad, we do so knowing that we never walk alone. We walk side by side with our God. Our Lord Jesus Christ is always with us, guiding us, supporting us, and sometimes carrying us.

Together as the children of God we carry the message of Easter well beyond Easter Sunday. We carry a message of hope. We carry the assurance of eternal life. We carry the promise that we are never alone. We know that we have a God who never rests. We have a God who tirelessly gives us grace and love when we need it the most.

This message is especially important for us to hear in difficult times. Remember, we are a family. We support each other in times of need. We comfort one another in our sorrows, we celebrate with each other in our good times. But most of all, as a family, we look forward in hope, knowing what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

Easter is not over. It is there for us every day of our lives.

The Lord is risen, The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Pastor Fox

Just Three Months until our annual rummage on August 6-8.

Three great reasons for holding our rummage sale:
Recycling items is better than adding to a landfill.
Sale proceeds will be for a good cause.
Another opportunity to welcome the community into our church.

Please sign-up to help with the set-up, sale, bakery, or clean-up on the sheets posted. Thanks!



"How much would you take not to sell that to my husband?"

Birthdays in May

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



THE MEN'S LUNCHEON IN MAY will be held on May 22nd at Milano's Restaurant located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road.

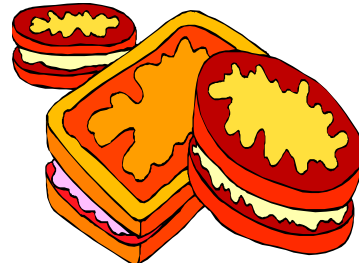
FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, May 21st at 11 noon in the conference room. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by Emilie Quellmalz. Pastor Fox will continue a study of Women of the Old Testament.

THANK YOU, MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH!!!!

The Lenten Pretzel Sale was a HUGE success thanks to you and the Sunday School children. We raised \$621. Thrivent will match our money 2 for 1. Giving us a Grand Total of \$921. The money will be used to assist families with the precious gift of water. (Look for additional details on Earth Day) We used 60 pounds of flour and made countless pretzels. Some small, some medium, some unusual shapes and one huge one Vicki and Michael Lester purchased. Many thanks go to Cheryl Moser, for her helpful bulletin board design, Sue Joliat for extra dough and extra hands, Diana Fox and the Fox girls for helping with the early service, and Hannah and Rachel Imel for coming with me for the early service!!

U.S.O. COOKIE TIME

Church Women United will have their annual collection of cookies for servicemen this month. Please bring small store-bought cookies in their original wrapping. Label the packages with the number of dozen cookies and place them on our collection table outside the conference room (rear entrance). Please bring cookies on May 3rd, 10th and 17th. Our goal again is 300 dozen which we have collected successfully for 3 years. Thank you for your generosity.
Bette Schmidt, C.W.U. Representative



PLEASE PRAY for Jay Imel, Wanda Hansler, Rick and Emilie Quellmalz, Eloise Lecy, Nils Pearson, David Phoenix and the Phoenix family, Phyllis and Lawson Anderson, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Jack Ferree, Murawski Family, Jeremy, Margurite Gardner, Gladys Elliott, Todd Skiba, Alma and Fred Fanto, Ann Marie Grossman, Robert Kalvesmaki, Richard Bohannon, Nancy Eger, Cheyfitz and DiJulius Families, John and Susan Jurgens, Andrea Waller, Nick Mazzone Family, Dorothy and Therese Kramer.

SYMPATHY

Mariana Treu, a beloved member of Messiah since 1965, passed away on Monday, April 20th at University Hospital with her family surrounding her. Her death followed a hospital stay of about 2 weeks. The funeral will be at Messiah on Saturday, April 25th. Mariana has been a very active member of Messiah, having served on Church Council, member of the choir, the women's groups, and many other ministries of the church. She will surely be missed. Our prayers and sympathy are with her family.



FATHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER BRUNCH.....

A brunch is being planned after the Church Service on Father's Day (June 21st), Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children (pre-sale and Father's Day morning). Please contact Carrie Skaggs (216 337-9349) if you would like to help with the brunch (set-up, cooking and clean-up).

THANK YOU TO THE MUSICIANS who provided the special music for our Wednesday Evening Worship Services: Heather Englander, Tom Griffith, Elise Hassink, Nancy Pittard, Laurene Pride, Carol Soltesz, Lisa Halberg, Nancy Durst, Alison Griffith.

LITERARY LADIES OF MESSIAH ARE INVITING YOU to join us on Tuesday evening, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in our Library to discuss the somewhat controversial religious best seller of 2008, **The Shack**, by William Young.

We have planned this special event after learning that many of our Messiah members and their friends have already read it and would be interested in meeting with us for a frank discussion of this popular book.

And we are delighted to note that our own Gail Patton has agreed to lead us in exploring not only this unusual story of Mack's meeting with Papa, Jesus and Sarayu, but also why some theologians call it "deeply subversive" and "scripturally incorrect" and downright "dangerous."

Invite your friends to attend with you and, if possible, please list your name and number attending on our sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help us with our preparation.

WELLNESS NOTE

FOREVER YOUNG: TIPS FOR PRESERVING YOUR HEALTH

The numbers are astonishing. More than 60,000 people in the United States are over the age of 100 and there are enough people over the age of 110 for them to have their own term: supercentenarians.

What's the secret of their long lives? And, more importantly, are exceptions to the rule? Perhaps, but maybe not. The fact is that we are living longer thanks to a combination of factors. According to the US Census, the number of people age 85 and over alone will more than double over the next 25 years. Further, it's estimated that there will be more than 800,000 people 100 and over by 2050.

While all of us hope to live into our 80's or 90's or longer, our biggest concern is having a healthy long life. Preserving and even improving your health depends in large part on the choices and habits that you develop now and continue into the future.

A study of aging funded by the MacArthur Foundation bears this out. It found that environment and lifestyle contribute far more to a healthy old age than genetics, and that the importance of healthy habits only increases as you age. Taking care of your physical well-being, challenging your mind, reaching out to others, and feeling positive about life and aging all contribute greatly to remaining active and sharp.

Next month we will continue this series with Physical Health.

Source: Yahoo Health, August 2008

Submitted by Peg Wilt and Kathy Strom, Wellness Co-chairpersons,
Nancy Coleman, secretary

EXCERPTS FROM APRIL 21, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Pastor's Report: In March Pastor had 5 office visits, made 6 hospital calls, and 5 out of the office calls. He led first communion classes, and conducted Wednesday evening Lenten services. He presided at a funeral for Mack Pittard, father of Lee Pittard. He attended a workshop led by Martin Marty and had lunch with him.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Chris Butler, presented the March report and mentioned that the pledge income was the highest so far this year at \$14,700. Year to date total income is \$45,000, which is lower than the first quarter income the past two years. Chris is projecting \$46,000-\$48,000 deficit at the end of the year. Several suggestions concerning the deficit were discussed.

Property Committee: The roof has been repaired. Work Day this Spring will be Saturday, May 30th from 9:00-12:00.

Christian Ed: The Vacation Bible School theme will be Rome. Diana Fox will lead VBS. May 17th will be the last day of Sunday School. A teacher's meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00. \$600 was raised from the Pretzel Sale and matching funds received from Thrivent.

Youth: LYO attended a Mystery Night at Christ Episcopal Church. They helped at the Easter Brunch, which netted \$421. This money will be applied to the operating fund.

Worship: A Life-Giving Water Program will be presented following worship this Sunday, April 26th. Setting 7 from the ELW will be introduced on May 3rd. This setting has a Spanish theme and will use piano and other instrumentation. The choir has been practicing the setting and are enthusiastic.

Evangelism: Twenty-two children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt, including some from outside the church. New Visitor packets are being prepared. The \$500 cost is from designated funds.

Social Ministry: Food was delivered to New Covenant Hunger Center from the Lenten Food Drive, and Easter Lilies were taken to shut-ins. We will start collecting snacks for the Summer Snacks Program at New Covenant. There will be an Earth Day ad in the Sun Messenger.

Fellowship: A Father's Day Breakfast was discussed as a fundraising event and Fellowship Committee will need help from other committees.

Capital Fund Raising Campaign: The Executive Committee selected Elise Hassink, John Swartz, Lynette Trentini, and Jerry Wantz to explore whether or not a Capital Fund Raising Campaign is feasible to make necessary improvements of church property, and how to move forward with a plan.

Garden Project: The project is proceeding on schedule. Boxes have been built, soil is in place, fence is erected, and all labor was from volunteers.

Rummage Sale: The sale will be August 6, 7, 8. Set-up begins August 3. The proceeds will go into the operating fund. The Pre-School will be donating all of their equipment to Messiah when they close permanently. Some things will be sold at the Rummage Sale, some apart from the sale.

Aldi Liquor Permit: The Ohio Department of Commerce, Liquor Division, has applied for a liquor permit. Any school or church within 500 yards may object to the sale of beer and wine. It was moved by Karen Dlugosz, seconded by Sue Joliat to not object to Aldi's permit. Motion passed with two objections.

Relay for Life: Project was brought up by Karen Dlugosz and discussed. It requires setting up a booth to sell things and takes place on June 13th. It is a great idea if someone can be found to lead it.

Pastor Fox mentioned that he is going to do a wedding for a non member on June 13th.





SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



MAY 2009



Easter Program: The Easter Program was a great success! Thank you to all who participated but especially our director, Tina Cannata. Special thanks to Becky Dinnen and Tom Griffith for all their help.



Lenten Pretzels: Thanks to all who bought Lenten pretzels this year! As you know, all proceeds from this worthwhile activity will be used to give life-giving water to those in need in Uganda and Bolivia. Our unending thank you to Jayne Imel who is in charge of the project each year.



Last Day of Sunday School: May 17th 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!



Vacation Bible School: Please watch the Grace Note and weekly bulletins for upcoming details!



The Sunday School office (Cheryl Moser, Joanie McTernan and Cristen McCord) would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Messiah for allowing us to contribute in the teachings of God's Word. The experience has been life-changing and has brought us all closer to God.



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