

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**GRACE NOTE, APR. 2010**

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There is something very special about this time of year. We have made it through the short, dark days, the piles of snow, the treacherous ice and the bone chilling cold. While I realize we might see a bit more yet, the worst is probably over. Now is the time to take off the winter parkas, and pull out the sun glasses again. It is amazing what a good day of sunshine can do for a person. Even if it is 35 degrees out, when the sun shines this time of year it feels like 65.

I always thought it was perfect that the Easter season comes to us this time of year. There is an awesome power at work in the Spring. It's the power that pushes the flowers to burst through the soil and seek the sunshine. It's the power that brings birds out of their hiding and puts a song in their mouths. It's the power of new life, new hope and new energy. It is the power of God.

New life is what the Easter season is all about. God has the power to give life. The empty tomb is the proof of that power. In Jesus death and resurrection we are shown that death does not have the final word and that life is possible now and forever.

When you see the flowers bloom and the trees regain their green, remember what God has done. Remember that new life isn't just a slogan, it is a reality. It is there for you. This Easter season open your heart to the renewal that is there for all creation.

In Christ's name,

*Pastor Fox*



**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the Health Kits for Haiti. We delivered 34 complete kits, 2 First Aid kits, 110 toothbrushes, 37 tubes of toothpaste, 134 washcloths, 15 boxes of band-aids, 17 bars of soap and 50 combs. Also some gauze, tape and wipes. It's wonderful to be part of such a caring and generous congregation.

**THE MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON** will be held at noon, on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Milano's Restaurant located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road.

**FAITH CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by Nancy Coleman. Pastor Fox will continue a study of the History of Christianity

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Harper Pace  |
| 2  | Eileen Thompson  |
| 3  | Sarah Halemba<br>Ellen Santos<br>Lyn Trier                   |
| 6  | Nancy Coleman<br>Peter Halemba<br>Dean Lecy                  |
| 9  | Louise Katlen  |
| 13 | Esther Hodgkinson  |
| 14 | Kim Broerman<br>Hunter Jeppe<br>Kaden Jeppe<br>Gail Sabolich |
| 15 | Alison Griffith  |
| 16 | Cheryl Wantz   |
| 18 | Lorie Marsalis   |
| 21 | Bonnie Voigt   |
| 25 | Twyla Lucas<br>Irene Rogner                                  |
| 27 | Judy Miele   |
| 29 | Jill Boehler   |

**PLEASE PRAY** for Ellen Santos, Jean Csumitta, Vera Leide, Baby Argo and Heather, Kristen McTernan, Craig Cline, Clay Lindeman, John Basch, Phyllis and Lawson Anderson, Lisa Perry, Carol and Nils Pearson, Alma and Fred Fanto, Murawski Family, Margurite Gardner, Ann Marie Grossman, Don Fromm, Marlene Kruse.

## **FROM THE LIBRARY**

The Literary Ladies of Messiah will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the library. Our selection will be the book of *Job* from the Bible.

Listed below are a few thoughts from *The New Student Bible, New Revised Standard*

*Version 1990 on How to Read Job:*

*The book of Job reads like a detective story in which the readers know far more than the central characters. The very first chapter answers Job's main question: he had done nothing to deserve such suffering. We, the readers know that, but nobody tells Job and his friends,*

*It helps to think of this book as a courtroom drama, full of long, eloquent speeches. For most of the book, Job sits in the defendant's chair listening to his friends' harangues. He knows no airtight refutations; what they say about suffering as punishment seems to make sense. Yet he also knows deep in his soul, that they are wrong. He does not deserve the treatment he is getting. There has to be some other explanation.*

We look forward to a very exciting discussion led by Gail Patton and hope you will join us and participate. A sign up sheet will be posted in the library only to give us an idea of the number of people attending.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**Lenten Pretzels:** The money raised from the pretzel sales will sponsor two children from Haiti through "Compassion International." Thank you to all who made, sold and bought pretzels for this very worthy cause.

**Vacation Bible School:** The dates have been chosen for Vacation Bible School this summer. Please save the dates: July 11-15<sup>th</sup>. Watch for upcoming details!



## EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - March 16, 2010

**Pastor's Report:** 4 office visits, 9 home visits, and 1 funeral. He held a service at St. John's Lutheran School and held the Ash Wednesday service. Pastor also brought in 14 new members this month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sent \$4500 to the Synod and \$1500 of that amount was reimbursed to the church by a church member. After paying the February bills, our March checking account balance was only \$3,000. So \$5,000 was moved from the USB restricted fund into the checking account. We have been averaging about \$3,000/week in pledged income but our expenses have been averaging 15-16,000/month. The number of weeks in the month, 4 or 5, has been determining the extent of the monthly income deficit. See attached financial report.

### Reports from the Standing Committees:

**Property Committee:** Reviewed our goals for this year. Completed projects: exit lights and parking lot lights (holes were capped too). Current projects: boiler maintenance & pump; lights to be repaired; and a door knob is sticking.

**Christian Education:** Palm Sunday, March 28, we will be providing coffee hour. Saturday, April 3 will be the Easter Program practice and the Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will be peanut and nut free. Easter Sunday, April 4, is our Easter Program titled "Who is Jesus?" We will be providing a light cookie reception with Fair Trade chocolate eggs. Earth Day Sunday, April 25, will be our Participation Sunday. Sunday May 23, Confirmation Sunday, we will be providing a cake and punch reception. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 11-15. VBS will be in Egypt this year.

**Youth:** The Easter Breakfast will be from 9-10:30 am and will have the same menu as last year. No honey baked ham sale. A service project for the youth is in the works. Matt and Katie Murphy are doing an excellent job leading the youth.

**Worship:** Did not meet this month. The Cantata that is usually on Palm Sunday will be on April 18.

**Evangelism:** Did not meet this month. The "Welcomers" are still welcoming each Sunday.

**Social Ministry:** The Angel Food Ministry program has orders for 34 basic units and the Cleveland Church of Christ will be assisting us for 3 months with the program. The Lenten Food Drive collection continues through March 28. Earth Day Sunday, April 25, we will be holding our annual Chocolate Coffee Hour. The Health Kits for Haiti collection organized by Carla Wollens collected 34 complete health kits and numerous additional loose items.

**Stewardship:** Karen Dlugosz and Karen Dickerson will be the co-leaders of the committee.

**Fellowship Committee:** Game night planned for Saturday, March 20th. An additional Summer event is being considered.

**Finance:** No meeting this month.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Rental Possibilities:** A rental contract will be delivered to Esther Hoffman soon. A meeting of the executive council and a potential summer renters was held.

**Capital Campaign Update:** Kick-off for the capital campaign began on Feb 28. Pledge cards and envelopes have been mailed out. A new “Pink Flamingo” fundraiser game is being planned. All members will have the opportunity to opt out of the game.

**New Business:**

**Studly Plant Sale:** Bill Studly has approached Messiah this year, as he has in the past, to see if we would be interested in allowing his company to sell plants from our property. A motion was made by Chris Butler and seconded by Fred Moser that “Council pursue a contract with Bill Studly to sell plants on our church property.”

**Jewelry Sales:** A Jewelry sales party is being proposed for Sunday April 18, at 3 pm in Messiah’s Fellowship Hall. 50% of all sales would be given to Messiah, with 25% designated to our Capital Campaign Fund. A similar fundraiser party was held at the Cleveland Sight Center and it was well done with quality merchandise. There was no opposition to this party.

**Financial Concerns:** Chris Butler shared some financial concerns. What should be done when our expenses exceed the available cash in the checking account? What future accounts should he transfer funds out of to place money in the checking account? Several ideas were mentioned for future exploration:

- We could explore a merger with another close ELCA Lutheran church. Pastor would have to contact the Bishop for more information.
- Cut staff salaries.
- Take out an equity line of credit on our church and property to help us ride out this deficit.
- The Endowment Account could be used in extreme financial emergencies.
- The Easter offering, and potentially other future earmarked offerings, could be designated for the operating expenses of our church.

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

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**Dated Information**  
**Please deliver by**  
**April 1, 2010**