



Pastoral Musings

Stewardship of Mission

Fall is stewardship emphasis time in most churches, and Messiah is no stranger to that endeavor. So, you will be receiving information on mission support for the wider church, materials on growing in your giving, and a commitment card. (I hope you read the first two and use the last.) But you also will be hearing people's stories about how their lives have been effected by the ministry of this church. And you'll be seeing Messiah members in action sharing their time and talents. I'm certain that you will be generous as always when the moment comes to support the ministry of Messiah on November 21st, Consecration Sunday.

That aside, I'd like to focus for a bit on a different kind of caretaking, and that might best be called "The Stewardship of Mission." Our mission as Messiah Lutheran Church in Amherst, NH is to grow—to bring people into the presence of God, to welcome them into fellowship, and to recognize what they have to teach us. You might be saying: "Wait a minute, Pastor—I thought you were talking about stewardship. It sounds like you're sliding into evangelism here. Just saying."

To which I reply: "It's stewardship because what we're doing is simply "managing the harvest," not planting the seed or tending the plant. (More on that another month) A steward of the harvest (mission) is in charge of reaping the wheat. Gathering in what has already grown. Like Jesus said:

"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for the harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying "One sows and the other reaps" is true. I sent you out to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

(John 4:35b-38)

So...don't fear being the reaper!

The hard work is done by God. We're left with the relatively easy job of reaping. And how does one reap? First of all, everybody helps—from youngest to oldest. This is a "must do" proposition. But it is simply doing what we know we ought to—showing hospitality and regard for those whom God sends us. By showing them Messiah at her best—lively, active, inclusive, full of God's grace and Jesus' love.

If we want Messiah to grow, we must...

- Commit to make worship a priority in our lives—both attendance and participation.
- Complete the jobs we have agreed to do, especially in worship.
- Bring our children to Sunday School regularly.
- Take our turn at staffing the nursery.
- Become involved in ministry—something, somehow. Everybody helps!
- Take responsibility for how things look...pick up, clean up, fix up, spruce up.
- Greet visitors, and invite them to find here what you have found here.
- Un-circle the wagons: when socializing after worship, include visitors—at the least don't stand in a closed circle, rather an inviting, open horseshoe.
- Continually invite new members to higher levels of involvement.
- Widen your circle of church friends.

This is a start...there's much more we can do and should do and must do to be good stewards of God's mission here in southern NH. But for now, if we all concentrate on reaping what's been sown—intentionally—we will be off to a good start!

Peace,
Pastor Tom

In Our Prayers...

Al DeMello, Barbara Wilson (B. Wurst's Mom), **Janey Stokes** (rel of the Wurst's), **Jane Lind** (D. Bonfiglio's Aunt), **Perham Family, Suzy Atwell** (friend of the Mitchell's), **Ed Burgess** (friend of B. Wurst), **Melissa Salisbury** (rel. of the Salisbury's), **Terry Klecker** (rel. of the Costa's), **Sarah** (friend of the Costa's), **Pat Sapienza** (Friend of the Costa's), **Janice Brendal** (S. Retelle's Mom), **Walter Schur** (Dave's Dad), **George A. Ritz** (friends of B. Ensinger), **Pastor Tom, Mike** (friend of R. Bonfiglio), **Andy Wylie, Jim & Gen Retelle** (T. Retelle's parents), **Marie Brundage** (R. Brundage's Mom), **Margie Rowe, Drew D'Auteuil** (friend of the Vaughn's), **Frank Genna** (friend of the Ensinger's), **Claire Teichmann, Richard Ball, Crystal** (friend of L. Teichmann), **Kathy Brundage, Sue Stroock** (R. Ball's sister).

Synod Assembly in 2011 "Breaks All the Rules!"

It's a totally different synod assembly for 2011 – an assembly that Bishop Margaret G. Payne calls "one of the most exciting events ever to happen in the New England Synod." Not only will the assembly be held mid-day Friday through mid-day Sunday, June 3-5, to allow as many people as possible to attend, it will offer a full day of service projects in Springfield, MA, a diverse urban setting. These ministry projects, which will highlight the synod's commitment to justice, will range from hands-on carpentry work to letter writing and knitting prayer shawls. There also will be exciting worship and entertainment. Spread the word among the youth and young adults in your congregation. Watch for updates at <http://www.newenglandsynod.org/events/synod-assembly>

November 21st is Commitment Sunday!!

Ministers, All of the people at Messiah

*Pastoral Care, Reverend Tom Teichmann
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*Administrative Assistant, Joanne Theil
673-2011, theil69@msn.com*

Congregation President, Kauko Aunio

Music Director, Linnea Micciulla

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*Communications Team,
All of the people of God at Messiah*

Editor, Lisa Teichmann

HAPPENNINGS AT ANNE MARIE HOUSE:

UPCOMING EVENT:
HOLIDAY CONCERT AND
SILENT AUCTION
STARS AND PROMISES
FEATURING THE PETER
MAYER GROUP
Date: December 11th @
7:30
Place: Souhegan High
School

Benevolence Challenge

Have you contributed lately to the Benevolence Challenge? All funds donated go to the wider mission of the church at large.

Coming Up....

Where's my December calendar?

Since plans change frequently and weekly routines don't, we won't be printing next month's calendar in the newsletter anymore. Just this month's. Instead this "Coming Up" column will appear monthly, to let you know what's coming up, so you can enter it into your schedules. We will also be working on adding an online yearly calendar to the website.

Nov 5-7 - Women's Retreat at Calumet

Nov 7th - All Saints Sunday

Nov 28th - 1 Advent - Ryan Bonfiglio and Captive Free at worship, after worship soup lunch and

Advent craft

Dec 4th - Christmas Dinner and Auction

ASH STREET SHELTER MEALS

For those that are new to our church, we go to the Nashua Ash Street Shelter the second Thursday of each month. At that time we bring meals which serve 25 to 30 people. The Common Room area for the Shelter is extremely small - no dining room table and only a small counter with a microwave for food prep. Space is limited and the people there truly appreciate our hot and delicious entrees.

A few weeks prior to our visit, there is an announcement in church and sign-up sheet for those interested in preparing one of the five items needed (salad, three entrees and dessert). The food is then delivered at 5:15 pm that Thursday at the church and then a Messiah volunteer drives it to the Shelter.

We are always in need of drivers, cooks and bakers. If you can spare some time, we would truly appreciate it. Our next visit is Thursday, October 14 and we will be delivering a delicious Beef Barley Stew.

Sincerely,
Service Committee
Trudi Costa
Stephanie Vore Apple

Beef Barley Stew

Ingredients

1 ½ - 2 pounds extra-lean ground beef
1 large onion, chopped (¾-1 cup)
2 cups beef broth
1 cup uncooked barley
4 teaspoons chopped fresh or 1-1 ½ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
1 teaspoon paprika (optional)
½-1 Tablespoon dried parsley or 1/3 cup fresh chopped parsley
2 cans (14 ½ ounces) whole tomatoes, undrained
1-2 cans (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, undrained
1 package (16 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables – any combination
1 large or two medium potatoes cut into small chunks (add with the frozen vegetables)

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350°. Spray 10-inch nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Cook beef and onion in skillet over medium heat 7 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until beef is brown; drain.
2. Mix beef mixture and remaining ingredients except frozen vegetables in ungreased 3-quart casserole, breaking up tomatoes.
3. Cover and bake 30 minutes. Stir in frozen vegetables. Cover and bake 30 to 40 minutes longer or until barley is tender.





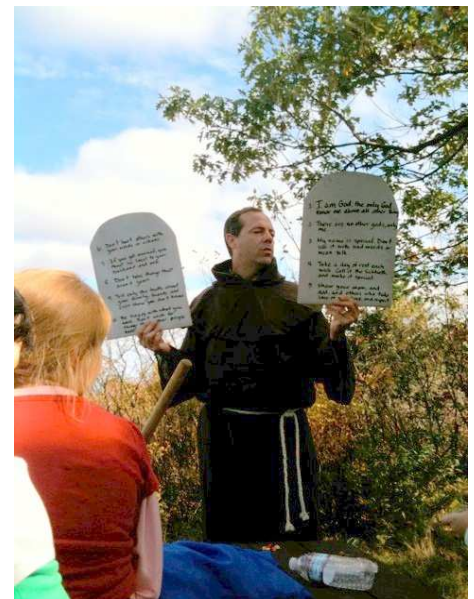
25th Anniversary of Messiah Celebration Team Forming

Did you know that Messiah is nearing its 25th birthday? It was in November of 1986 that the charter was signed and the mission point known as Messiah became Messiah Lutheran Church. That means next year, 2011, is our silver anniversary as a congregation. This calls for a celebration!

Plans are already in the works for events and opportunities to do just that. Primarily, there will be a special Sunday, November 20th, 2011, set aside for a grand party and festive worship. Bishop Margaret Payne of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will visit and preach the gospel that morning. Later on, we'll enjoy breaking bread together, and enjoy some entertainment (not Sven and Ollie). So put that on your calendar now – get one if you don't have a 2011er yet!

There will be other things going on during the anniversary ramp-up. There will be opportunity to give gifts to the ministry of your choice. A 25th Anniversary Fund with a goal of \$25,000 is being discussed. A history of the congregation will be published. Also in the dreaming stage are a Sunday at Wilkins School, a church picnic, special guests visiting, and a culminating worship experience in which we will renew our commitment to God through Messiah Church.

Want to be in on the planning? Want to help out? Got a great idea for our 25th year celebration? See Pastor Tom to get involved. An initial meeting to get the ball rolling will be held in December.



Sunday School Hikes Pack Monadnock

On October 10th, the Messiah's Sunday school took a hike up Pack Monadnock with none other than Moses (Emery Chase)! Once at the top, God (Val Wisneski) gave Moses the 10 Commandments. After Moses explained the commandments the group enjoyed a nice snack and hiked back down the mountain to spread the Word!

Messiah's Holiday Auction

This year's Holiday Auction will be on Saturday, December 4th at 6:00. We will have Kauko's second annual wine tasting during our appetizers (separate sign-up sheet) followed by dinner and our live and silent auction. We will have sheets to fill out for items for both the live and silent auction available soon. This year we would like to limit the silent auction items to new (or near new) gift worthy items. So look for details to follow. The cost will be \$10.00/pp with an additional charge for the wine tasting. All proceeds go to our local chosen charities.



If you have any questions or would like to help feel free to contact any of your Holiday auction engineers: Darlene or Jay Davison or Deanna or Jeff Cordts. Thank you.

How to: Host Snacks at Messiah



Did you know that only seven families are currently hosting snacks at Messiah? Perhaps you are interested in helping out, but don't know what the commitment is.

Snacks involve/include: coffee & creamer, juice, and something to eat.

Since snacks have been moved from before the worship hour to afterward, you no longer have to show up during the Sunday School timeframe to get coffee ready. If you start at 10 or 10:15, just before worship, coffee will be ready by 11:30. The instructions for making coffee are posted inside the cabinet door that is just to the right as you enter the kitchen. It tells you how much coffee and how much water to use. Basically you put water in the percolator, add coffee to the unit/holder at the top, and turn it on. You would also want to put water in the other percolator, for tea. Then just put out sugar, and tea bags, which are both found in the same cabinet.

For food, it's your choice! Some people like to bake; other people like to buy. Anything that you like to eat is fine. Pretzels, crackers, cheese, bagels, fruit, cookies, baked breads, store-bought donuts – all of these are welcome and appreciated. Put these out, along with juice and coffee creamer, during the announcements or Sending Hymn, and we are all set! Well... except for one more thing.... Cleanup! Put any leftovers away, put the coffee cups in the dishwasher and start it, and wash the coffee percolator. Now we are all set!

If it is more than you want to do yourself, perhaps you'd like to partner with someone. You set up; they clean up. Or, you donate money; they shop for food. Imagine the possibilities of sharing this service!

If this sounds like an area of ministry that you would like to help with (yes, it helps us minister to each other and also to our guests), please let Kenneth Duesing or Karla Seckinger know and they will add to you to list for the next rotation. And.... THANKS!



A big thank you to Kurt and Darla Vaughn for all their time and hard work on updating the secretary's computer!

Upcoming at Worship

November 7th—All Saint’s Sunday: bring a picture of a departed loved one to worship.

November 21st—Christ the King Sunday. The church year ends in glorious fashion.

November 28th—First Sunday in Advent. Captive Free will be on hand (with our own Ryan Bonfiglio) to lead the worship service on this day.

December 24th—Christmas Eve: Service times to be announced.



How Many Lutherans Does it Take to Change a Lightbulb?

Apparently quite a few with a few pieces of heavy machinery thrown in!

Thank you to all who helped with the endeavor and thanks to those who watched and encouraged!

A light shines in the darkness!

November 21st is Commitment Sunday!!

From the Financial Secretary:

Anytime there is a need to make a change (increase or decrease) in your pledged giving please contact our financial secretary, Jeff Cordts, via email jeffcordts@comcast.net or a note to Jeff at 21 Blueberry Hill Rd Amherst, NH 03031. All information will remain confidential. The information will be used to help with adjusting Messiah's budget line items if necessary.

**Messiah Lutheran Church
FY 2010 Income and Expenses Summary
(through September 2010)**

	Sep 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	\$ 146,601	141,112	5,489
Total Expense	\$ 145,013	140,041	4,972
Net Income	\$ 1,588	1,071	517

Note - Full details of each 2010 Monthly Treasurer's Report can be found on the hallway bulletin board next to the kitchen entrance.

Messiah's Mission and Vision Statements

We believe in Jesus Christ, who died and was raised for us. Through Baptism we are called to grow in Christ and to proclaim him in word and deed. We gather in worship to celebrate the promise of God's grace, love and forgiveness. In the power of the Holy Spirit we use the gifts that God has given us for the sake of each other, our communities and the world. Messiah's Vision is to invite people to faith, to care for each other with love, to help one another grow in faith, and to share our gifts with others.

Deadline for the newsletter is the 20th of each month.
Please submit articles to
news@messiahnh.org

Messiah Wish List

Paraments for altar.

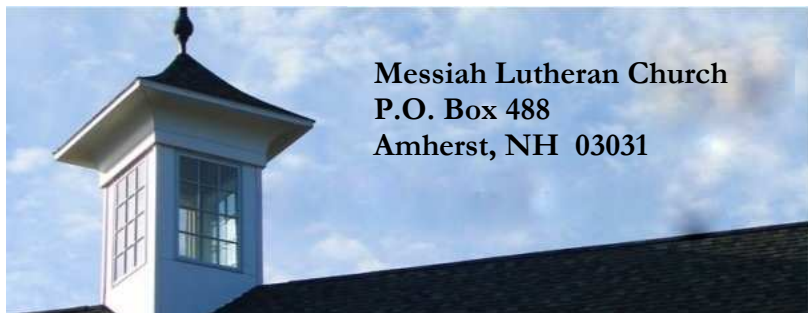
If you're interested in donating any of the above items, please see Pastor Tom.

Come Share the Spirit!



Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 303 Rt.101E in Amherst 1/2 mile east of the shops of "Salzburg Square". Contact the church by calling 603-673-2011 or visit us online at <http://www.messiahnh.org>



**Messiah Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 488
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