



The Messenger

December 2010

Published monthly for the members and friends of Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH

Pastoral Musings

“The Advent Conspiracy? Yah, I’ve heard of it. And I want to be a part. But how?”

Let me help you join the Advent Conspiracy by giving you concrete “to do’s.” They correspond with the four suggested ways we can radically reclaim Advent and Christmas from the great retail machine. And they’re not scroogy, or anti-capitalismy. They just acknowledge that Jesus is the focal point of both the ramp up and the main event, and that gift giving, holiday hoopla, and festive feasting are not the only (or even the best) ways to celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

So...

Worship fully – immerse yourself in worshiping the God who came to us out of sheer love. Fall into the arms of mercy and be uplifted in song, word, prayer, and ritual. To worship fully is to put loving Jesus and praising God *first* in your preparations and celebrations. By:

- attending worship, both midweek and Sunday.
- using an Advent devotional book (available free in narthex).
- setting aside 10 minutes a day for prayer—use a prayer list, or book.
- having an Advent wreath and using it to ritualize the passage of time (an advent calendar also works—and they’re online!

Spend less (give relationally) – Jesus is the ultimate example of a relational gift. Thank goodness God didn’t send a fruitcake! What better gift can you give than one that shows the recipient they’re worth your time and concern? To spend less is to stay within your means, and give of yourself. By:

- spending time together doing what you enjoy.
- making presents for each other
- deciding to spend less this year on gifts people don’t need or want
- consciously giving one less gift this year (just one!)

Give more – this one is easy, especially when you scale back your spending and give relationally instead. Give your presence as a presents—above and beyond the usual. To give more is to realize that the world cries out for basic necessities—food, shelter, water, medical attention—and we can help, as Jesus taught us to. By:

- asking your children to donate to a charity in your name, rather than buy gifts for you.
- take what you saved by cutting back one gift and give it to LWR for the drilling of wells in Africa (special offering will be taken Dec. 19th)
- give your time as a volunteer, individually or as a family.
- offer time together doing something special as an alternative to gifts given out of obligation.

Love more – this is the easiest to accomplish. Just let the love that enters your heart with the Christ child flow through you to others. Family, friends, co-workers, classmates, church members—but also the needy, the sick, the imprisoned, the irritating, and the overlooked. Jesus loved them in a radical way—he asks us to love them too. To love more, by:

- visiting people in nursing homes
- providing greeting cards for prisoners
- “making” a meal a month for the hungry, either by donating regularly to World Hunger, or buying dry and canned goods monthly and bringing them to the food bank.
- advocating for those who have unmet needs. Go to ELCA.org and search for “advocacy” to find out how.

Make a new tradition this Advent—conspire to reclaim the joy and peace of Christmas, and to welcome the baby Jesus with an open, tuned-in heart.

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), **Walter Schur** (Dave's Dad), **George A. Ritz** (friends of B. Ensinger), **Pastor Tom, Mike** (friend of R. Bonfiglio), **Andy Wyliee, Jim & Gen Retelle** (T. Retelle's parents), **Marie Brundage** (R. Brundage's Mom), **Margie Rowe, Frank Genna** (friend of the Ensinger's), **Richard Ball, Crystal** (friend of L. Teichmann), **Sue Stroock** (R. Ball's sister), **Alice Mullen** (friend of B. Ensinger), **Judy Johnson, Becky Herlihy** (friend of the Davison's), **Millie Bauer, Barbara Bonfiglio** (Bob's Mom), **Our military personel, Peter Chuchul, The Retelle Family.**



We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Messiah family a joyous and blessed Christmas.

Pastor Tom & Lisa

Ministers, All of the people at Messiah

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Music Director, Linnea Micciulla

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

Editor, Lisa Teichmann

Wednesday Evening Advent Services

Advent worship will be held Wednesday the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd beginning at 7 pm. We will use the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. The theme is "My Soul Magnifies the Lord," based on Mary's song. There will be four speakers talking about Thanks, Justice, Praise and Hope.

Come and prepare for the coming Christ in prayer and meditation! All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

5:00 pm worship is family friendly, yet planned for all ages. It will include Holy Communion and a candlelight portion, as well as favorite carols and special music.

11:00 pm worship welcomes in the Christ child at midnight. There will be Communion and candle lighting, as well as scripture and an Christmas message from Pastor Tom.

Hey, Where Did "The Lutheran" Go???

Lutherans are always on the go.

For Messiah's 2010 church year budget, we did not renew our church-wide subscription to "The Lutheran" magazine. Because we paid for the 2010 subscription at the end of 2009, you've been receiving and enjoying the monthly magazine for this entire year.

But, as they say, all good things must come to an end. And your Messiah-funded subscription to "The Lutheran" will end in December 2010.

If you wish to continue to receive "The Lutheran" magazine, you can get your personal subscription at: <http://www.thelutheran.org/> or you can read portions of it online at that website. You can also call (800) 328-4648. Choose "1" for magazines.

You are not totally, irrevocably responsible for everything.
That's my job.

God

Mainspring Hamburger Tater Tots Hot Dish

Ash Street Shelter Meal

Ingredients:

2 lbs. ground beef
2 cans any type cream soup
1 (32 oz.) bag Tater Tots
optional seasonings:
chopped green pepper, red pepper
onion & garlic
1/2 lb. (2 cups) grated cheddar

Directions:

Cook ground beef with peppers, onion and garlic, drain. Put mixture into a 9 x 13 inch pan. Mix soups and pour over the meat. Place a layer of cheese over the soups. Arrange Tater Tots over cheese. Bake at 350° for 1 1/2 hours, until cheese is melted and Tater Tots are golden.



News from Anne Marie House and SHARE

ANNE MARIE HOUSE: Things are very busy at AMH. I want to thank Kauko Aunio for going through training and orientation and becoming an official volunteer (and one who is willing to cook dinner). Thank you, Kauko!

Our host week is the week of Dec 5th. Decorating and tree trimming will begin on the Sunday of our week. We will also be doing a Christmas activity.

There are 4 guests who are in need of winter coats. We need 3 men's large for teenage boys, and a woman's XL. Just let me know.

PETER MAYER GROUP IN "STARS AND PROMISES" HOLIDAY CONCERT

Are you a Jimmy Buffet fan? If so, this is for you. Peter Mayer happens to be a drummer in Jimmy's band. There will be a silent auction before the concert at which a signed guitar and signed shirt and Parrot Hat will be three of the many items to bid on. There will also be free hors d'oeuvres. Even if you are not a fan of his, this promises to be a very fun event. Proceeds will benefit AMH.

Date: Saturday, December 11th
When: Doors open at 5:30 for auction and hors d'oeuvres
Concert begins at 7:30
Where: Souhegan High School
Tickets: \$35 reserved seating (pre-ordered may be picked up at door)
\$25 in advance, general admission (pre-ordered pick up at door)
\$30 at door, general admission

SHARE has also been extremely busy this time of year. In October 175 households were customers in the food pantry. That breaks down to 543 individuals, 27 new families and 74 new individuals. Thank you to all who are donating food to our basket! They are getting ready to put the Thanksgiving baskets together and then Christmas. WOW! What a joy!

God bless you all for your help! Marge

P.S. Anne Marie House received \$500 from the Longhorn fundraiser and \$570 from Unos. Thank you to all who joined us for dinner. Longhorns gave 10% of their profits; and Unos gave 15%.

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.

Luther Seminary's Communion Bread Recipe

Sift dry ingredients (important!) **together three times:**

2 c whole wheat flour
1 c white flour
1 & 1/4 tsp baking powder
1 & 1/4 tsp salt

Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 180 degrees F)
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead.

Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool. Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. The loaves freeze well.

Senior Youth News

The Senior Youth group has a couple of exciting events coming up. On Sunday, December 19 we will be having our annual Christmas party. It will be held right after church. Activities will include our traditional Christmas Quiz and the ever exciting Yankee Swap. Each person should bring a gift costing between \$5 - \$10 to share in the Yankee Swap. Gifts can be serious or humorous. The more creative the better. Speak with Lisa and Kenneth about what you can bring for our potluck meal.

On Saturday, January 22 there is a Winter Hammo event. This is a new event sponsored by the Hammonasset planning committee. Winter Hammo will take place at Trinity Lutheran in Worcester, MA. It runs from 2:00—6:00. The event will feature music by two different bands, Attaboy and Highland Fall. Food will be provided. All this for a cost of only \$10. It should be a great event and will provide an opportunity to meet up with some friends made at Calumet and Hammonasset. We'll need to get an accurate count of who's attending in early January. As a reminder, Senior Youth meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month after church from 12:00 - 2:00.

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

	Oct 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	\$ 165,848	154,320	11,528
Total Expense	\$ 159,650	154,340	5,310
Net Income	\$ 6,198	-20	6,218

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

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.

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!

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.

NRSV Bibles

2 Candelabras

2 Candlesticks for altar

Commercial Vacuum

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
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