



# The Messenger

## February 2011

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

### **Pastors message - What to do with all that green?**

Just recently the “ones who know such things” determined that one of the signs of zodiac was left out, due to superstition. The astrologers didn’t want thirteen signs, so they very stealthily left one out. To their credit, they did cut the sign hardest to spell! But isn’t it interesting that people could be so full of themselves that they would “change” the nighttime sky to suit their own beliefs. And that modern day stargazers would try to return it to its original configuration in spite of our liking it just the way it is—thank you very much!

Another thing that relies on astronomical convergences that some meddlers have a notion to “fix” is the date of Easter. It’s different every year, you know, and some folks don’t like that. Makes planning marketing strategies challenging for big box stores. It’s either too short a time, or too long a time between Valentine’s Day and Easter, even when you throw St. Patty’s Day in the mix. Plus, wouldn’t it be easier for people to know the date—like they do for Christmas? Why calculate it instead from some outdated, unfathomable, astronomical formula? (The first Sunday after the full moon that follows the vernal equinox.) Better to stamp a fixed date on it and be done with all the astronomic gymnastics.

As sensible as this all sounds, I don’t think there will suddenly be a permanent date for Easter. And I don’t think there should be—for reasons that have little to do with Easter, and much more to do with the “time after Epiphany.” That’s one of the two “green seasons,” so called for the color of the church paraments. The other one is the time after Pentecost (also called ordinary time), but they have more in common than just the color green. Both can either be shorter or longer—based on when Easter falls.

After Pentecost is a long season naturally, but when Easter is early, it’s several weeks longer. After Epiphany can be very short, or, when Easter is later, it gets longer. This year, Easter is near the latest it can be, which means the season after Epiphany goes on from January 6<sup>th</sup>, all the way to Ash Wednesday on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

So, because of Easter’s lunar wandering, you get lots of extra Epiphany this year. That’s a good chunk of green you wouldn’t have otherwise. The question is what are you going to do with it? How are we going to use those extra greens? As with those other unexpected greens (\$), this found time can either be squandered, saved or used creatively.

Squandering that time would be the easiest way to enjoy it. You could stay home from worship, ignore the wonderful readings you don’t hear routinely, and resolve to say or do nothing that would even closely serve to reveal Jesus as God. (That’s the theme of epiphany.)

Much harder to do is to save that time. Which sounds like good stewardship, but isn’t. Saving your extra greens denies you the opportunity to delve into the season of lights shining and glory made manifest. And so, while you have marked the passage of time, you got nothing out of it. And that’s really what seasons are for in the church—marking time in a way that enriches us.

The thing to do is to use your free greens in ways that creatively does both those things. For instance you might take time to read the lectionary ahead of time and reflect upon it in relation to the sermon. Or you could volunteer in a way you never have before. Or write a thank you note to someone—just for who they are. Anything that makes Christ known is a green thing to do, you see—so use them wisely, and have fun. Because it’s really easy being green!

## 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, 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), **Sue Strock** (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 personnel, Peter Chuchul, Winn Goulet** (friend of L. Teichmann), **Annemarie Chuchul, Roanne Kovach** (J. Mitchell's sister), the families of **Fred Gottman** (J. Mitchell's uncle) and **Lois Gossen** (D. Vaughn's Mom), **Richard Ball, Taylor Cordts, Wendy Gordon.**

### Congratulations!

John Ensinger, a Webelo I Cub Scout with Pack 114 in Bedford, has earned the **God and Family** religious award for the Protestant faith. He will receive the religious emblem on Feb 13th ( Scout Sunday) during the Bedford Presbyterian Church Sunday service. This is the second religious emblem for John. He also earned the **God and Me** award as a Tiger Scout.

### Ash Street Shelter Recipe

#### Italian Sausage Bake Casserole Recipe

12 oz. mini penne pasta (cook and drain)  
 1 1/2 lbs. Italian Sausage (casings removed)  
 1 cup chopped onion

#### Sauce

1 can (15 oz) Italian style tomato sauce  
 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes and roasted garlic  
 1 can (6 oz) tomato paste  
 1/2 cup water

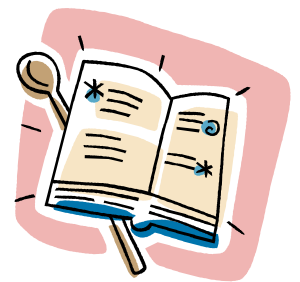
2 cups of shredded mozzarella cheese

Combine with sausage, onion and simmer 10 minutes or until light brown.

Combine sauce ingredients and pasta and put into 9 x 13 baking dish. Sprinkle with 2 cups of shredded mozzarella cheese.

Cover and bake in 350° oven until bubbly hot (20 minutes).

Cook longer if dish has been refrigerated.



#### 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*

### Messiah Lutheran Church

#### FY 2010 Income and Expenses Summary (through December 2010)

	Dec 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	\$ 211,372	184,416	26,956
Total Expense	\$ 211,372	184,416	26,956
Net Income	\$ 0	0	0

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

## Annual Meeting Highlights

We received Treasurer's report—we ended with a balanced budget and had a surplus of over 6k that went to increase our support of the wider church. It also showed we gave 20k to local charities.

We approved a balanced budget for 2011 based on income projections of about 188k. The plan includes raises for our secretary and pastor.

Basically the remainder of the plan was unchanged from last year, with a few increases in heating oil, assembly costs, etc.

We elected five new council members and thanked last year's group. Wynne Snell, Bob Hammerstrom, Deb Scheetz, Melissa Clickner, Bill Mitchell were elected .

We elected the Theils to Synod Assembly, and a six person nominating committee for 2011.

We held discussions on the 25th anniversary of Messiah, and constitutional revisions. Thanks all of you who participated!

## 2011 Officers Elected

Messiah Lutheran Church council elected its officers by ecclesiastical ballot at a meeting held directly after the annual meeting.

They are:

Deanna Cordts, President  
Bill Mitchell, Vice-President  
Brian Meldrum, Secretary  
Jay Davison, Treasurer.  
Jeff Cordts remains as Financial Secretary

We thank these people for stepping forward to serve the church in this way.

## Property Wish List

Projects to be Completed

1. Hall (education) recessed lights need repairing (2 or 3 are out).
2. Paint necessary in education wing
3. Power wash Messiah house and Parsonage
4. Messiah house will require some repairs – scraping old paint, painting all wood fixtures; sills replaced, screen for basement windows, new dehumidifier (save energy).
5. Permanent set of back stairs – Messiah House.
6. Carpeting stairs at Parsonage.
7. Front walkway at Parsonage re-configured.
8. Remove front steps – enlarge and remove old material or walkway. Replace with safer, non-slip substances.
9. Gutters replaced on Parsonage
10. Broken storm window panel – dining room at Parsonage
11. Light bulbs replaced over sacristy.
12. Risers built (Flowers at holidays etc.)
13. Stain church front doors.
14. Pruning of all shrubs – trees- Messiah House, Parsonage.

Pick a Project

## Messiah's Garden of Peace

The purpose of our Garden is to provide a quiet space for prayer, reflection, communing with a loved one, or just experiencing the tranquility and peace of the woodland vista – of flowering bushes, flowers and trees. The Garden Committee is pleased to provide this service and invite members of the congregation and friends to take some time to sit (benches provided) awhile and enjoy the solitude and natural beauty of the Garden area.

Work on the Garden continues according to our master plan of keeping the "plantings (long blooming perennials, flowering bushes and trees) that enhance the natural setting – working with nature – of the surrounding area. The Garden also serves as a focal point for an annual formal remembrance of our departed loved ones in celebrating All Saint's Sunday.

Donations are gladly received to upkeep and maintain the Peace Garden.

Kathy, Marge, Bonnie, Jean



## *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](mailto:news@messiahnh.org)

## **25th Anniversary Update**

At our annual meeting we came up with a bunch of good ideas for celebrating Messiah's 25th anniversary. Now it's time to start planning! There are already some volunteers raring to go but we can use more. So we're calling a Celebration Organization meeting on **Sunday, February 13th** after worship.

## *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>



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