



### **Pastor's message – The “Next Big Thing”**

At our council's “vision and mission” retreat, one of the council members noted this difference between Messiah now, and Messiah ten to fifteen years ago. He said that Messiah has always looked to accomplish the next big thing—which means taking on something larger than it could reasonably achieve.

Like purchasing the land on which Messiah rests. “Seemed impossible to me,” he remembered. But it got done. The renovation of Messiah House—by ourselves—that appeared to be too big a bite to chew. But it got done. Then raising funds to build a church, to be a mission base. So far fetched it was ridiculous! But it got done. Plus another lay-led capital campaign—to reduce debt. One of the hardest types of fundraising there is. But it got done.

The difference between us then and now, this council member conjectured, was that now we don't have that “next big thing.” The thing everyone thinks impossible—but isn't—thanks to the Spirit moving through Messiah. We need to be challenged.

I think he's right. Messiah responds well in such challenging situations, and even seems to draw energy from them. What I don't think we realize is that we have faced an enormous challenge in the past four years. Looking back now, I can see that we were involved in “the next big thing.” This one wasn't as evident as building a worship center, or as exciting. But it was something that we had to pass through to continue on to the future we all desire for Messiah.

This next big thing, that many young congregations find difficult if not impossible to achieve, is becoming what in the New Testament is called a *koinonia*. Koinonia is a “partnership” in which each has a share, and each gives a share. It is an intentional community that is marked by each individual's participation. It implies a working relationship with each other and an active relationship with God. Koinonia is fellowship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments.

In short, it's figuring out who we are, how we relate one to another, what our purpose is, and how we can work together. It doesn't come with hammers and nails, with mortgages or mortar, with catchy slogans, goals to meet, or with fanfare at the finish. It comes with struggling to get along—listening to each other, disagreeing but not disassociating, forgiving and being forgiven. It comes with sacrifice of one's wants over the church's needs. It comes with figuring out budget woes and property dilemmas and policy mix ups. It comes with learning to prioritize one's life, centering it on Christ, and participating in the mission of the church. It comes with the body and blood of Jesus Christ Son of God, given and shed for you.

When you see all that's involved, you realize how impossible Koinonia could be. It was, hands down, the next big thing for Messiah as we settled into the new worship space and were faced with the question—now what? And while nothing seemed to present itself and consequently you thought you were drifting, dissolving into a flood of problems and set backs, you were in actuality forming the bonds, negotiating the processes, and shedding the negativity—all needed to create a more focused and missional church. A koinonia.

Did it get done? For the most part I think yes. But I also realize that, by its very nature, a Koinonia is always a work in progress. So I won't stop striving for it—and neither should any of you. Yet the basics are strongly in place, we've learned a lot about working together. And that can't help but assist Messiah as it approaches its “next big thing.”

Which is?

Celebrating God's Faith , Hope and Love.

## In Our Prayers...

**Al DeMello, Barbara Wilson** (B. Wurst's Mom), **Janey Stokes** (rel of the Wurst's), **Perham Family, Ed Burgess** (friend of B. Wurst), **Melissa Salisbury** (rel. of the Salisbury's), **Terry Klecker** (rel. of the Costa's), **Sarah, Pat Sapienza** (Friend's of the Costa's), **Walter Schur** (Dave's Dad), **Pastor Tom** (Parkinson's Disease), **Mike** (friend of R. Bonfiglio), **Andy Wyliee, Jim & Gen Retelle** (T. Retelle's parents), **Marie Brundage** (R. Brundage's Mom), **Margie Rowe, Sue Strock** (R. Ball's sister), **Frank Genna** (friend of the Ensinger's), **Judy Johnson, Becky Herlihy** (friend of the Davison's), **Barbara Bonfiglio** (Bob's Mom), **Our military personnel, Peter Chuchul, Annemarie Chuchul, Alan Robinson** (friend of D. Jahns), **Art Palmer, Bill Wurst, Rebecca Peterson, Janell Mensinger** (Doreen Schneller's sister), **Peggy Pulfer** (Doug's Mom), **Alexander Scheetz** (Mike's nephew), **Arlene Packard** (J. Aunio's Mom), **Tom & Jeannine** (friends of L. Teichmann), **Jean Ahrendt** (N. Hammerstrom's Mom).

### Altar Flowers

Remember that you can place flowers on the altar at anytime—for a celebration, in memory of someone or some occasion or just to beautify the sanctuary, to the glory of God!

There is a flower sign up calendar on Joanne's office door. Just sign your name and the occasion or person you are remembering. This is a great way to pay tribute and to add to our altar setting.

Just have them there Saturday or before service on Sunday. If you wish for someone else to get them just let Marge know. Then you can just put a check in the offering. So simple and means so much. Thanks!

### Messiah's 25th

### Anniversary Cookbook

We're getting ready to put together a collection of all your favorite Messiah member's recipes. You are invited to submit (electronically) as many recipes as you wish to. We will be publishing this cookbook ourselves so there's no limit on what we can put in it. send your best tummy pleasers to share with our faith community at Messiah! Send to [messiahnh@comcast.net](mailto:messiahnh@comcast.net)

#### *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*

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

	May 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	\$ 85,840	76,420	9,420
Total Expense	\$ 84,917	78,283	6,634
Net Income	\$ 923	-1,863	2,786

Note that our "Pledged Giving" shows the following through May 2010:

	May 2010	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Pledged Giving	\$ 55,365	56,440	-1,075

This means that we have fallen behind our budgeted Pledged Giving by about \$1,100. However, note that at the end of April 2010, we were behind by almost \$2,500, so we've made great progress! Please review your recent Giving Statement summary, to see if you're keeping up with your 2010 giving pledge. Thanks.

## Ash Street Shelter Recipe of the Month Golden Chicken Casserole

2 cups cubed, cooked chicken  
1 (20 ounce) can unsweetened pineapple chunks, drained  
1 (12 ounce) jar apricot preserves or spreadable fruit  
1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted  
1 (8 ounce) can water chestnuts, drained  
Hot cooked rice (Make 10 servings of rice)

In a bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Transfer to a greased 2-qt baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes or until heated through.

Rice can be served separately or you can combine everything in a larger dish (13" x 9") pan.



### Milestones:

#### *Graduating from High School –*

Katie Bonfiglio - will attend Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester NY studying American Sign Language Interpretation.

Seth Cordts – will attend Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburg, PA to study Biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering and will be playing basketball for them.

Lauren Cordts – will be attending Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, NC to study sports, entertainment and event management and will be playing volleyball.

Taylor Cordts – attending Simmons College in Boston, to pursue a six year Doctorate program in physical therapy.

Eric Hahn – graduating from Souhegan

Valerie Wisneski – will attend the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

#### *Graduating from college –*

Brittany Cordts – B.S. in Marketing, working with Home Shopping Network in Florida

Kyle DeNoble—B.S. in Mathematics. He is currently looking for full-time employment.

#### *Graduating with an advanced degree –*

Holly Davison, M.Ed. from UNH, currently seeking a position as a Spanish teacher

Linnea Micciulla - PhD. in linguistics

(Any one we missed? Email the info to [messiahnh@comcast.net](mailto:messiahnh@comcast.net) and we'll add them)

### First Ever “Community Jam” to be Held at Messiah House June 25<sup>th</sup>

Do you like contemporary Christian music? Folk music? Do you play an instrument? Or sing? Or do you have friends that match that description? Well, you and your friends are invited to *Community Jam*, a brand new ad hoc musical celebration! We'll gather at Messiah House at 7 pm on Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> to just play music, sing, and have a good time. No talent level expected or required—fit in as you're able. In true jam tradition, we'll play whatever music bubbles up, as well as learn new tunes from each other. For more information call Pastor Tom at 672 3734, or [pas-torteich@comcast.net](mailto:pas-torteich@comcast.net)

## **NEWS FROM ANNE MARIE HOUSE:**

This was observed and written by our president. If you have 2 minutes, please read:

One evening at AMH, while on duty as a volunteer, I observed the families around me. A dad sat in the dining room feeding his 4 month old, while his wife kept their 2 older girls occupied with stories and games. In another corner a family of five sat around a table: mom and dad had a conversation about something involving 3 ring binders, the 2 younger children did homework and the oldest, a teenager, didn't hang around long--found him later in the library on a computer. Just outside the dining room, an older child was running the vacuum cleaner and in the living room the usual flock of younger kids watched TV in the company of a parent and another volunteer.

Anne Marie House makes childhood as normal as possible by shielding kids from the worst effects of homeless, such as food insecurity or exposure to unhealthy situations. In addition, we provide children and their families with warm beds to sleep in, wholesome meals, access to transportation and other supportive services. We nurture our families via a supportive and caring network of more than 1,000 trained volunteers while providing the necessary guidance for our families to attain sustainable housing independence.

We all find that we get much more than we give. We see this as the joy that can only come from reaching out to others. It is not always easy to say "YES" to volunteering; but if you speak to someone who does, you too, will feel that joy. Marge

### **AMH Volunteer Refresher Course**

Linda Fraser will be coming to Messiah on June 5th to lead a volunteer refresher course. We feel this is necessary about now. Things do change, rules change and I don't always remember to convey these to all of you. Linda is conducting these at all of our faith communities. It will be right after worship and will last about 45 minutes. Hopefully, we will be able to have all of our volunteers present. Anyone is welcome to attend; if you just want to know a little more about what is involved and what goes on over there.

### **Going Out of Town?**

When you go on vacation this summer remember to keep current with your offering. This can be done very easily by writing one check for the weeks you're gone. Or even easier Simply Giving is a program that allows you to electronically transfer your offerings to the church's account automatically on a scheduled basis. This helps keep you current, and also to keep Messiah current with our obligations during the summer. Thank you.

### **Are You a Ringer?**

Christ the King in Nashua has loaned Messiah some of their hand bells for the summer. So if you'd like to learn how to be a bell ringer and to master a couple of easy songs, then speak to our church musician, Linnea. There's already a good group of folks signed up, but there's always room for one more. Or two!

## **Ladies of Messiah— Come for Dinner**

Dress casual but bring a gown if you have one  
(an old one you don't mind parting with!)



Date: Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: 7 Thistle Drive in Amherst

Hosted by Trudi Costa

Purpose: Fellowship, sharing a meal, and collecting gowns for the Antrim Girls' Shelter

Come and have a relaxing & enjoyable evening with ladies from Messiah.

At the same time, drop off one of those prom gowns, bridesmaids' dresses, or an evening dress that is still taking up room in your closet. If you are wondering why on earth you are still hanging onto it, this is your chance to find it a new home and help the Antrim Girls' Shelter at the same time. We may not have the use for a particular dress anymore, But believe it or not, Antrim does.

So, ladies of Messiah, come for dinner, (yes, you may bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert) And bring along that dress and any funny stories that go with it.

Already cleaned those things out of your closet? Then bring a brand new pillow or bath towel to donate to the Shelter. Questions? RSVP's? Call Trudi at 672-8719.

### **Wednesday Wisdom Group**

Meets on alternate Wednesdays at 11:00 AM. Our last meeting was on May 18. We are small and want to encourage any who have that time available to attend. We explore the lessons and the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday and this always leads to many and varied discourses on relations to our own personal lives. And Pastor Tom always has a surprise in store for us which makes us really have to put the old thinking cap on! Afterwards some of us have been known to go out for lunch. So come on - give it a try.

### **Sunday School's Out on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June (adult forum too)**

Messiah ends up another Sunday School year with the Second Annual "Are You Smarter than a Sunday Schooler?" adults versus kids! That's the game show that highlights your knowledge of the Bible stories.

There will also be games, a craft, and prizes for all (given during a special time at worship).

### **Looking Ahead to next fall in Christian Education**

Three of our best Sunday school teachers – Valerie, Sabina, and Katie - are leaving for college in the fall. We'll miss them! But this gives those of you who always wanted to teach SCS the chance to get involved. So if that's you, say YES when Pastor asks you to lend a hand. Or better yet, volunteer today!

### **Blood Drive!**

On July 9 we will once again be hosting a blood drive, 9am-2pm as usual. Please mark your calendar and plan to help by volunteering or donating. Thanks!

## **Worship Notes...**

The first Sunday in June will be different at Messiah. As Pastor will be at Synod assembly (along with all the pastors in the synod), we won't have communion that morning. Instead we will do the "Service of the Word" led by Ed Costa, who is quite experienced in leading worship, due to his volunteering at the state prison. Ed will present a sermon prepared by Bishop Payne for this occasion. The service will still have music and scripture, and prayer.

## **The Season of Pentecost**

In June we enter into the season of Pentecost, which begins with the day of Pentecost itself on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church are celebrated. Our celebration will involve singing hymns in other languages. The week after that is Holy Trinity Sunday, the only Sunday commemorating a doctrine of the church. And then begins the long season of *Ordinary Time* – the green season. Though it is in ordinary time, worship will be lively and diverse during the summer—along with much of the familiarity we all enjoy.

## **Summer Worship time**

Summer worship begins on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. The service time will be 9:30 am.

## **Crop Walk Thanks**

Thank you to all the Messiah family and friends that supported the Crop Walk. It is reassuring to think of all the people locally and globally that will be helped with water, food, and other necessities for everyday life. Totals are not yet in but we had at least 20 walkers, wet as it was! The after-walk celebration polished off 14 Bravo pizzas and many ice cream cones. John David, Souhegan Crop Walk organizer, awarded numerous prizes to attendees. Again, thanks goes to all who helped host the celebration, especially Pastor Tom and John David, as well as the food servers, donation recorders, ice cream scoopers, photographer, and clean-up crew! Please remember that if you did not sponsor someone, [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org) is always open!

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Updates**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July** – Parade and Cotton Candy: Plans are being made for a Messiah entry in the parade, to complement our youth's Cotton Candy booth. Ideas are welcome—see Pastor. And be on the lookout for some work/practice sessions to be scheduled in June.

**25<sup>th</sup> Year Gear** – Soon you'll be able to purchase Messiah t-shirts, golf shirts, caps, and other logo goods from our shameless commerce division. Expect an announcement after worship real soon!

**25 Years of Messiah Meals** - Messiah Cook book: The goal is to have appetizers / drinks, salads and sides, lunches and main courses, and deserts. The history of Messiah will be weaved in around the recipes. Yes, that is ambitious, but we aim high here at Messiah. Send in your favorite now by email to [messiahnh@comcast.net](mailto:messiahnh@comcast.net) Word is Pastor is working on Messiah Members Sandwich creations—perhaps you will be immortalized in a tasty lunch treat?

***Be aware! This September's Rally Sunday will be exciting and will involve the entire membership!***

**Harvest Fest returns in October**—need we say more? (Yes—the date!) TBA

**The BIG Day!** We will celebrate the (approximate) anniversary of our chartering as a Lutheran church on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, with a festive Eucharist with Bishop Payne presiding. Followed by a meal. Know any ex-pat Messiah-ites? Let them know they're invited too!

## **Stewardship – The Offering, by Dick Lange**

The liturgical placement of the offering is one that often causes debate. It has become more complex over time as it is unclear for whom the offering is taken! Obviously, the offering is not given to God (though we sometimes encounter presiders and assisting ministers who raise the gifts up to some imaginary high altar as if they giving the offering to God up there!). Offering was never collected for God or for the parish itself; but for the poor.

This is clear in documents dating back to the second century written by Justin Martyr. After the celebration of Holy Communion, "The wealthy who are willing make contributions, each as they please, and the collection is deposited with the presider, who aids orphans and widows, those who are in want because of sickness or some other reason, those in prison, and visiting strangers—in short, the presider takes care of all in need."

Unfortunately today, what gets put in the offering plate is primarily for self maintenance. We are giving to ourselves with a certain percentage (usually small) designated for mission or the wider church. This contradicts the intent of the offering.

One of the primary recommendations of the early Reformation Kirchenordnungen (the Church Order) was that there always be a common chest for the poor. After a lengthy chapter on the use and misuse of the mass (and instructions on how the mass should be enacted), Pastor Johannes Bugenhagen (Luther's own pastor) writes about the necessity of a common chest. He clearly echoes the second century text by Justin Martyr. The line from the celebration of Holy Communion to the common chest is strongly suggested, just as Luther makes the same connection in his critique of the brotherhoods who celebrate Holy Communion only for themselves and not for the good of their neighbor. Almost copying Luther, Bugenhagen writes, "All the trials, he writes, of body and soul of our brothers and sisters, whether rich or poor, should be mine." Sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion immediately spills over, so to speak, into a sharing in humanity's plight.

Reviving this meaning of the sacrament implies renewing our practice of offering. The possibility today of contributing our pledge through online services is a wonderful opportunity. Our offering for the maintenance of the parish, its pastor and staff, etc. can now all be accomplished simply and effectively and regularly. This frees the moment of the offering during the Sunday worship to be truly an offering for the neighbor, the poor and all in need. (*Lang is Associate Professor of Worship at Luther Seminary. Reprinted from Stewardship in the 21st Century at Luther Seminary website*)

### **Council Retreat Jump Starts "Vision and Mission" of Messiah**

Your church council recently enjoyed meeting in retreat, giving them an opportunity to shed the world's cares and to focus in on reclaiming the vision for the ministry of Messiah. With the guidance of retreat leader Joe Guilfoyle, they revisited the vision statement "Invite, Care, Grow, Share" and rebuilt mission descriptions to reflect our ever-evolving membership and always-changing context. The council committed itself to making vision and mission a priority at every meeting, and to lead the congregation into the future to which God calls it.

***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)

**FYI: After worship on June 12th, the congregation will meet to officially elect officers.**

***Catch the Spirit at Messiah***



Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship Service 10:30 am  
Beginning June 19 worship will begin at 9:30 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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