



### **Pastor's message: Ten Reasons that the Easter Season is Seven Weeks Long**

*He is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

That's the cry of Easter morning, when we gather to worship with friends and family to experience once again the resonating power of the resurrection. But it is also our cry for the six Sundays following—seven weeks total: a week of Easters. Why is that? Here are some authentic (and some tongue-in-cheek) reasons...

#10. It takes seven weeks to finish off the egg salad made from all those colored eggs!

#9. Seven is one of the church's "special" numbers. Remember how long it took God to create the world? Seven days (with a vacation day). We celebrate the fact that God has recreated the world through Christ with seven Sundays of praise and thanksgiving.

#8. Seven weeks is just about the time it takes for an Easter Lily to lose its blossoms and look more like an Easter shrub.

#7. There was a period of time between the resurrection and Jesus' ascension when he appeared bodily to the disciples and others. During this time, Jesus ate and drank, walked along the road, cooked fish, broke bread—all in preparation for the next step in God's mission. We pause to savor our relationship with Christ, and to recognize the power of the resurrection being revealed to us now.

#6. Although Pentecost was already a Jewish festival, it marks the birth of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit as well. Pente- means 50, and so comes on the fiftieth day after Easter—which means the season is 7 weeks x 7 days in a week = 49 days in Easter.

#5. While the world ramps up to Easter (and Christmas) with a frenzy of consumer activity, the church dedicates the time before its holy days with introspection, meditation, and turning towards God. The world's secular celebration of Easter (and Christmas) climax on the big day. And then it's over. For the church, there is an extended time in which to fully enjoy and reflect on the meaning of the holy days. Twelve days of Christmas and a week of Easter Sundays!

#4. The white altar paraments weren't getting much use, so the powers that be arranged for some extra air-time for them.

#3. The church calendar's main function is to simultaneously mark the passage of sacred time, and represent the timelessness of our worship. The season of Easter comes around each year to remind us that the resurrection is part of our lives, just as the seasons of fall, winter, spring, and summer. But it also shows that we are apart from the world even in this basic way—although we are a part of the world.

#2. Every Sunday is, at its heart, Easter. We gather as God's people around the crucified and risen Christ. As Christ's body, we reflect the crucified Jesus as we take on the implications of sin in the world, and as we suffer alongside those whom God reaches out to through us—the poor, the unbelieving, the sick, the hungry. The resurrected Christ is the center of our worship, as he gives himself in the bread and wine, speaks to us as Word, and invites us to a resurrected relationship with God via the dying and rising of baptism.

And the #1 reason for seven weeks of Easter...

One word – Peeps!

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, Mike** (friend of R. Bonfiglio), **Andy Wyliee, Jim & Gen Retelle** (T. Retelle's parents), **Marie Brundage** (R. Brundage's Mom), **Margie Rowe, Sue Stroch** (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, Anne-Marie Chuchul, Taylor Cordts, Richard Ball, Wendy Gordon, Alan Robinson** (friend of D. Jahns), **Art Palmer, Bill Wurst, Rebecca Peterson, Janell** (Doreen Schneller's sister).

### Church Calendar Dates

Have a date you need to put on the church calendar? The big calendar on the secretary's desk is available to all if they need to fill in an event or meeting at Messiah. If there is something written in on the date then please check with Pastor or Joanne if we can accommodate the use of the church or Messiah House for the event or meeting. You can also send an e-mail to the church if that is easier? [messiahnh@comcast.net](mailto:messiahnh@comcast.net)

### Calling All Parents of 8th—11th Graders!

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, May 22 immediately following church regarding our 2012 trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans for youth that want to attend and their parents. If your child is between in 8th—11th grade, they're eligible to go. The dates for the Gathering are July 17-23, 2012. Please attend this meeting and learn more about this wonderful trip!

### 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. So send your best tummy pleasers to share with our faith community here at Messiah! Send to [messiahnh@comcast.net](mailto:messiahnh@comcast.net)

#### *Ministers, All of the people at Messiah*

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

*Editor, Lisa Teichmann*

#### Messiah Lutheran Church

#### Income and Expense Summary (through March 2011)

	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	\$ 48,498	50,559	-2,061
Total Expense	\$ 50,111	51,382	-1,271
Net Income	\$ -1,613	-823	-790

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

## **Ash Street Shelter Recipe of the Month** **Wild Rice Harvest Casserole**

### INGREDIENTS

4 cups diced cooked chicken  
1 cup chopped celery  
2 tablespoons butter or margarine  
2 (10.75 ounce) cans condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted  
2 cups chicken broth  
1 (4.5 ounce) jar sliced mushrooms, drained  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 cup uncooked wild rice, rinsed and drained  
1/4 teaspoon poultry seasoning  
3/4 cup cashew pieces  
Chopped fresh parsley

### DIRECTIONS

In a skillet, brown chicken and celery in butter. In a large bowl, combine soup and broth until smooth. Add the mushrooms, onion, rice, poultry seasoning and chicken mixture. Pour into a greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dish. Cover and bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour. Uncover and bake for 30 minutes. Stir; sprinkle with cashews. Return to the oven for 15 minutes or until the rice is tender. Garnish with parsley.

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### **LSS synod assembly donations for Northeast Mission Area**

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The Synod Mission Team of the New England Synod would like to invite you to participate in collecting donations for Synod Assembly June 3-5 in Springfield, MA. This year the Saturday (June 4th) is devoted to community service projects in Springfield. There will be 600 Lutherans around the city performing these projects.

Some of the projects will be assembling Emergency Kits for Lutheran Social Services, Open Pantry Springfield, and Springfield Rescue Mission.

The congregations in the Northeast Mission Area are being asked to collect 25 of one or more of the following items for LSS "New Americans Food Basket"

filled salt and pepper shakers/other spices, oil and vinegar (no salad dressing), sugar, flour, rice-best in bulk (not instant), variety of canned beans, canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned tuna fish, chicken, or beef (NO PORK), pasta and sauces, fruit juices and jams, cookies, fruit bars, crackers, salted peanuts and other snacks

Your congregation may also choose to collect all the items for one (or more) baskets.

We will be in contact with you closer to assembly to provide delivery instructions or to offer assistance as needed.)

### ***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 Dates to Remember**

July 4th—Messiah will have a float in the Amherst Parade.

Sept 18th—Rally Sunday

Oct TBA—Harvest Fest

Nov 20th—Celebration Worship with Bishop Margaret Payne preaching.

Dec TBA—Messiah Cookbook Release party

### ***Catch the Spirit at Messiah***



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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