



Pastor's message – Holy Ground

Several weeks ago this sign greeted people at the door to the sanctuary. It read: *The ground on which you will walk is holy. Please remove your shoes before entering.* (The small print at the bottom assured the wary worshiper that the exercise was optional.)

A good number of people opted out. But many of you took off your shoes and experienced the holy with bare or stockinged feet. Without explanation. Until now. So what was the point of going shoeless to worship?

First it was to remind you that when you come to Messiah, you come to a place Christ has promised to be. That, I'm sure you'd agree, makes the sanctuary *holy* ground. And it demands some respect. Not that we must check our humor and joy at the door, keep pious silence, or worship the room itself. Rather it means we recognize it as an awe-inspiring place because of God's presence in it. And that we act accordingly—whether we are rejoicing, mourning, singing, or sharing a meal.

Secondly, shoe-less-ness was meant to evoke the same feelings that you might experience in an encounter with something powerful and other-worldly. I don't know about you, but without my shoes, I felt awkward and vulnerable, out of place and sort of weak. Some of you might have enjoyed it, but for most of us, bare feet are susceptible to stubbed toes and being stepped on. The dis-equilibrium forced on us by removing our shoes served as a potent symbol of life at the nexus of sacred and secular. Being in the sanctuary of our God, experiencing the holy, is both scarily awesome and wildly joyous. We are not worthy—but we are.

The activity itself was inspired by the reading that Sunday from 1 Peter. *"Be holy, as I am holy."* In it, Peter encouraged the early Christians in Asia Minor to live life remembering they were God's chosen, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. To be worthy as they had been made worthy. Good advice for us too.

However, having you take off shoes was patterned after Moses' encounter with God through the burning bush. The ground there was holy—not because of location, location, location—but because of God infusing it with his presence. And because of what occurred there. Vision and mission.

God had something to tell Moses about. So he called him to holy ground. There he was told about God's *vision*. God's vision of a free people. God's vision of the redemption and restoration of the people of Israel. God's vision of a future relationship between God and humanity.

Having told Moses the vision, God next gave him a mission. Convince Pharaoh to let the people go, and then guide that often-cantankerous, seldom-trusting people through the wilderness, suffering hunger and thirst, braving serpents and armies. All to get them to the land God promised they would flourish in together.

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In Our Prayers...

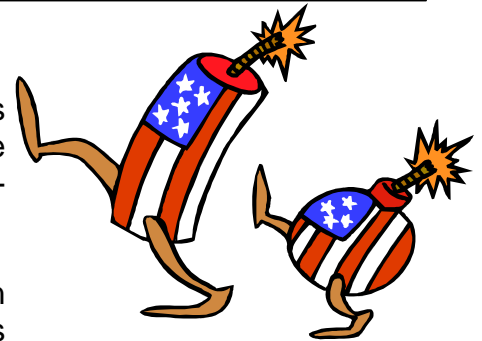
Al DeMello, Barbara Wilson (B. Wurst's Mom), **Janey Stokes** (rel of the Wurst's), **Perham Family, Ed Burgess** (friend of B. Wurst), **Melissa Salisbury** (rel. of the Salisbury's), **Terry Klecker** (rel. of the Costa's), **Sarah, Pat Sapienza** (Friend's of the Costa's), **Pastor Tom** (Parkinson's 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), **Pastor Frederic Teichmann.**

Before the Parade Passes By

Don't let it slip away again this year! You know you've always wanted to do it. You just didn't have the nerve, or you were unsure how to get involved. But do you really want to miss this opportunity—do you want the parade to pass you by? Literally?

Well, you no longer have to just dream of being in the Amherst 4th of July Parade. You can walk along with Messiah's float. We'll be meeting up by the Wilkins School (how apropos!) the morning of the parade. (Wear a Messiah or youth event shirt, khakis, and sunglasses.) We need people to carry signs and our banner, and we'll be joined by FHL as we sing our way to the reviewing stand. No experience needed. Let Ryan Theil or Pastor know you want to march, so we can get info to you.

Not going to be in town on the 4th? You can still help decorate the float. We will be doing that in Davison's barn, a few days before the 4th. Let us know if you'd like to help out.



Ministers, All of the people at Messiah

*Pastoral Care, Reverend Tom Teichmann
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The Messiah Messenger is a monthly publication of Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH. Submissions should be made by the deadline as noted on the back cover.

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

Editor, Lisa Teichmann



Altar Flowers Wanted

Is your garden just bursting with colorful blooms?

Garden flowers make great altar flowers. Call Joanne at 673-2011 to schedule a Sunday.

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!



That's one tough mission. But God gives Moses a spokesman and a staff, which will each be invaluable to him. God also promises to be present with Moses and gives Moses his name (YHWH) as a seal. And thus the exodus, the freedom and salvation of all of Israel is planned. God's people will survive—and in God's time another exodus will free all people forever. This is the kinda thing that happens where the heavenly and earthly collide. On holy ground.

You know, I believe God is calling Messiah to holy ground. To ground we recognize as holy. This church. And, although God does not require we shed our shoes, God does (*I feel*) ask us to leave behind our disagreements, our prejudices, our intolerances, and our personality peccadilloes—to come to holy ground with the intent to *be holy, as God is holy*. God is bringing us to holy ground and asking that peace be among us for a special reason;

God has a *vision* for Messiah. And God wants to tell us about it. Not through a burning bush, but through folded hands and bowed heads—through prayer. Set Moses aside for a minute and remember the story of Samuel and the priest Eli. Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary (!) when God called his name. He ran mistakenly to Eli. Who sent him back to sleep. Again God called. Again Samuel reported to Eli. Eli sent him back, but with these instructions—when God calls, say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!” So when God called Samuel the next time, he *listened*. That is what we are called to holy ground to do. Listen. Prayerfully listen.

God has a vision for Messiah. What is it? Come with me each Sunday this summer to the holy ground—where the fabric between this world and God's kingdom is thinnest, where God stoops down to embrace his creation, where God hears our voices and sends forth his word—come to holy ground with me as we say,

Speak, Lord, for your servants listen.

Pastor Tom

Did You Know?

- ...that Eric Retelle was honored recently by the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout? We're proud of you, Eric!
- ...that Eric Hahn will be attending the Maine Maritime Academy?
- ...that Sabine DeShazo will be attending Gettysburg College?
- ...that Lauren Cordts is a proud owner of a Guinness World Record for the largest three-legged race ever?
- ...that Christ the King in Nashua has loaned us their bells for the summer and you can learn to play them? See Linnea for details
- ...that it's only a mere four months till the Calumet Women's Retreat? See Lisa T. for details.
- ...that there's a Men's Retreat at Camp Calumet as well? Anyone interested in going? It's in October.
- ...that recipes for Messiah's 25th Anniversary Cookbook are due in the office no later than midnight on August 31st?
- ...that you're invited to BYOB (bring your own brunch), Sunday, July 3rd?
- ...that Pastor Dwight Hanson and family will visit with us and attend worship on Sunday, July 17th?



NEWS FROM ANNE MARIE HOUSE:

We have just welcomed our 68th family to Anne Marie House last week-a mom and daughter. On the 27th a pregnant mom -to-be will be joining the family. She is due the beginning of August (our host week). That should be interesting.

We did honor our three dads on Fathers' Day. Messiah and CCA contributed gifts for a gift basket for each dad. They were all very pleasantly surprised; and stated they had never received gifts on Fathers' Day. Richard and I also provided a breakfast casserole for the families that morning. These dads are special-through all their trials they have stayed with their families. It is easy for us to say, "Of course, that is what they should do" but this does not always happen. We have not walked in their shoes.

Please remember that volunteers are always needed. On the fourth Tues of each month, Linda Fraser, our volunteer coordinator, conducts a training session from 7-8:30 pm at the Congregational Church of Amherst. No registration required. It is not a huge commitment, but means so much. Thanks you, everyone and God Bless!

AMH Volunteer Secures \$5,000 Ameriprise Grant & Runs Local Promotion for Anne-Marie House

Bob Bonfiglio, co-owner of Bonfiglio, Kiley & Associates and AMH Finance Committee member, recently assisted AMH in receiving a \$5,000 grant from Ameriprise Financial. The grant will be used to pay for general program expenses. "Anne-Marie House is honored to receive a grant from Ameriprise Financial and sincerely thanks Ameriprise for its support of local charitable organizations," said Laurie Skibba, Director of Anne-Marie House. "Bob is a long-time, dedicated friend and supporter of Anne-Marie House and we are grateful for his efforts in achieving this critical funding for the children and families that call Anne-Marie House a 'home for now.'"

In addition, Bob has continued his generosity by inviting community members to attend a complimentary financial planning meeting. In exchange, for every complimentary meeting, Bob will donate \$25 to AMH. If after this initial meeting one decides to proceed and purchase a financial plan, AMH will receive an additional \$25 donation. To find out more or to schedule your complimentary initial meeting, contact Bob Bonfiglio at [603-606-4255](tel:603-606-4255) or robert.a.bonfiglio@ampf.com or visit his website at www.ameripriseadvisors.com/robert.a.bonfiglio.

Messiah Stewardship

FY 2011 Income and Expenses Summary (through May 2011)

	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	\$ 85,395	78,882	6,513
Total Expense	\$ 80,264	79,546	718
Net Income	\$ 5,131	-664	5,795

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

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.

“Community Jam” to be Held at Messiah House August 6th



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 August 6th 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 3 7 3 4 , or pas-torteich@comcast.net

25th Anniversary Updates

25th 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 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. 20th, 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!

Retreat Focuses on Messiah's Future

At the council retreat in May, we revisited the question, “What is the vision and mission for Messiah Lutheran Church?” Is it the same as when they were last reviewed in the 90's? Things have changed, and so the vision and mission evolve alongside demographics, financial realities, and culture.

A mission statement says what we will strive to do to attain our vision. The mission statement is for all to see, our “billboard” if you will. The vision of the church is what her leaders and people hope to be one day. With much thought, brainstorming and discussion, council has voted to adopt our present vision statement as our true mission statement.

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.

Invite, care, grow and share is easy for everyone of any age to remember. It tells the world what we do!

Work will be continuing on the vision for Messiah, which will lead to specific goals to strive toward, both short term and long term. The vision will be continuously evolving, changing as our context shifts, and leading us to the future as we grow.

Messiah

Twenty-five for Twenty-five

“Pay it Forward”

by Deb Scheetz on behalf of the Church Council

According to Wikipedia, the resource of all resources in my social media savvy home of three teens, the expression "Pay It Forward" is used to describe the concept of asking that a good turn be repaid by having it repeated for others instead. In contract law, typically there are two parties, but there *is* a concept of third party beneficiaries. Paying it forward merely tweaks the designation of third party beneficiary requiring that they be a stranger to the creditor. More specifically, the creditor offers the debtor the option of "paying" the debt *forward* by lending it to a third person instead of paying it *back* to the original creditor. Debt and payments can be monetary or good deeds.

For me, I best understand "Pay It Forward" in terms of the 2000 movie of the same name. In the movie, a young boy sets out to make the world a better place after his teacher gives him a chance. As a communications major and practitioner, I was amazed by this multi-level marketing strategy of the "heart." For a period of time, it was a social movement that made an impact, renewed your faith in human nature, and resulted in some real, spontaneous acts of kindness. From this movement, the Pay It Forward Foundation was established to promote good deeds and to capture the spirit of giving.

For the past twenty five years, Messiah Lutheran Church has been the recipients of so many good deeds and gifts, it is hard to keep track of them all. A few that come to mind are the faith-based leadership in our congregation members, pastors who have given it their all, talents from Habitat for Humanity and other Lutheran churches for the restoration of Messiah House, seed dollars from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Newington, NH for our sanctuary construction (*they received a monetary gift after the church in Rochester closed—and paid it forward!*) We also were blessed with a welcoming local community that fostered our growth at Wilkins School. We have been truly blessed for 25 years, and now we are in a position to reflect upon that, and, yes, to "pay it forward."

As part of our ongoing 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Council would like our congregation to work together to pay it forward to one of the New England Synod's most unique and youngest congregations -- Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church which meets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Newington. Rev. Robert Waworuntu established the mission church to serve the immigrant Indonesian population. Waworuntu has helped start congregations in New Hampshire, Texas, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere.

The two congregations today are truly partners under the same roof in Newington. No rent passes between them, only warmth and friendship. They share expenses. Pr. Waworuntu has a permanent office just down the hall from Pr. Selz. Each congregation retains its own worship schedule, but they come together for joint holiday services. Confirmation classes, youth mission trips, and VBS are shared.

The purpose of such "mission partnerships" is to bring congregations into personal relationships, yielding benefits to both partners. Established congregations are always enriched and often awakened to a new sense of mission through their involvement with a new congregation.

Messiah is in a wonderful position to help Imanuel in their ministry through some financial assistance. This gift would help grow the leadership in the church by enrolling several members in the NE Synod's School of Lay Ministry. The cost is several hundred dollars per person. Your council asks Messiah members, in recognition of our 25th Anniversary, to donate **\$25 for 25**, in support of Imanuel. (Note: some of the funds will go to pay for anniversary related expenses.)

As we celebrate 25 years in our community, we can reciprocate and "Pay It Forward," by sharing our gifts with others who are could use a helping hand. It's hard to believe that in 1986, we were a mission church and that in 2002, we celebrated our Service of dedication in a new sanctuary. What a journey it has been ... what gifts and blessings have made it possible!



Praise the Lord all Creation!

Psalm 148

Vacation Bible School? No! Vacation Bible CAMP!!
On August 2nd, Messiah Lutheran Church will turn into Camp Messiah!

Campers will spend the day with their unit singing camp songs, playing games, crafting, getting some exercise, getting wet, eating, praying, learning how God's creation celebrates God and becoming a participant in that celebration! Whew! It will be a busy day!

Who: Children 5 years and up
When: August 2nd, 2011—9:00am gathering, 6:30pm parting
Cost: \$5.00 per child, no more than \$15.00 per family



All are welcome to join dinner and closing Vespers which will start at 5:00pm. Come as you are, anytime after 5:00pm!

Camp Messiah Classifieds – Now Hiring Camp Counselors – No experience necessary! Counselors spend the day with their assigned unit acting as leader, parent, example, friend, and helper. Love and patience with children necessary attribute.

Period leader – Spend 2-3hours working with small groups on an area of your choice. Are you crafty? Sporty? Gamey? Projects and activities still in the planning stages so speak up if you have an idea!
Lunch and/or Dinner Supervisor – Food your strength? This position is responsible for all things lunch and dinner including but not limited to prep, set-up, serving, and clean-up. Lunch needs to be ready at noon, dinner at 5:00.

More jobs will become available as event planning continues!

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.

Fisher Cats Game!

Take me out to the ballgame!

Sunday, July 24th 1:30 pm

We'll gather at the ballpark to see the Fishercats take on the Portland Seadogs.

Tickets are \$8, and you can reserve your spot by signing up on the table in the narthex, and paying Pastor Tom.

What a great parent-child event! See ya there!

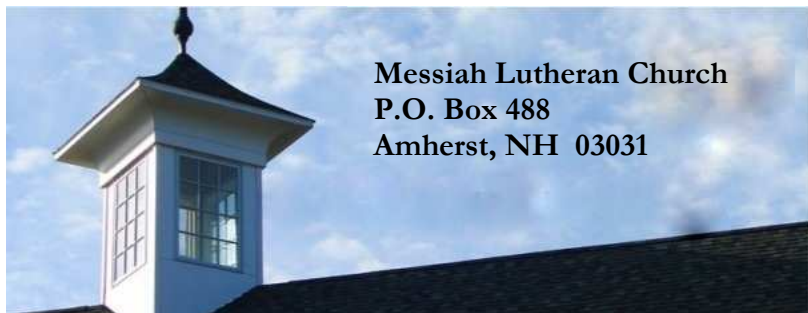
Catch the Spirit at Messiah



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

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

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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