

The Messenger

PENTECOST

JUNE - 2010

Messiah Lutheran
Church
2727 Five Mile NE
Grand Rapids
Michigan
49525

Phone: 363-2553

Fax: 363-7843

E-Mail:

messiahgr@
messiahgr.org

Web Site:

www.messiahgr.org

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Dan L. Seng

Parish Assistant

Richard Krueger

Office Manager:

Diane Love

Preschool :

Diane Oppenneer, Dir.

Marlene Anderson, Asst.

Our Mission

is to know Christ and to make Christ known through the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian Education, fellowship, outreach, and service.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Messiah,

The holy writer of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us,

“For everything there is a season...

a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1,6

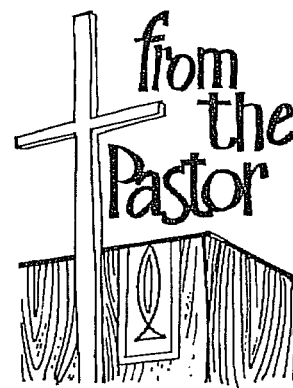
Well, finally the wheels are beginning to turn! Rev. Galan Walther from the Michigan District met recently with Call Committee members and a few of our congregational leaders for the purpose of getting us started in necessary pre-Call activities. If you've been in church within the past two weeks, you've been asked to complete a worship attendance sheet that's part of those necessary activities. So, that's the good news; the wheels are beginning to turn!

Along that same line, on *June 7* District President Rev. David Maier, Rev. Walther, and Circuit Counselor Rev. Mark Love will travel to Messiah for a

7:00 pm Congregational Pre-Call meeting in which the entire Call process will be thoroughly explained to us. *All Messiah members are urged to make every effort to take part in this very important meeting!* Another turn of the wheels!

In the meantime, however, we probably still have a few months - maybe several - before the moving truck rolls in with the new Pastor's family household belongings. That means, of course, that I still have time to do the pesky things that an Intentional Interim Pastor is Called to do, namely, help the congregation to discover as much about itself as possible so that when the Holy Spirit finally sends the new man, he and the congregation are well-matched and truly ready to go to work together.

To that end, then, I would simply remind all of us that we are still in the "Intentional Interim" - that period of time that Messiah has decided to use intentionally to *sort out "who and where we have*



been" and "who and where we want/need to be," so that we can most effectively share through word and deed the Good News of Christ crucified and risen for all people. Seems to me that's pretty much what the Preacher is saying in those two verses from Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season... a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away."

In a word, let's keep on sorting out, for Jesus sake! Jesus be in your hearts always!

Pastor Seng

PS - Those wheels we mentioned above? One of them's a grindstone!! Noses Down!!

Messiah Lutheran Church

2727 Five Mile Rd. NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49525
 Phone: 363-2553
 Fax: 363-7843

Church Website: www.messiahgr.org
 Church Email: messiahgr@messiahgr.org
 Pastor Email: pastorm@messiahgr.org
 Parish Asst. Email: rick.krueger@messiahgr.org
 Pre-School Email: DianeO@messiahgr.org
 Messiah Enews: groups.yahoo.com/group/messiahgr/

Our Mission Is ...

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian education, fellowship, evangelism, and service.

Serving you ...**Staff:**

Rev. Dan Seng, Intentional Interim Pastor
 Mr. Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant
 Mrs. Diane Love, Office Manager
 Mrs. Diane Oppenheer, Pre-school Director
 Mrs. Marlene Anderson, Assistant Pre-School Director

Messiah Messenger is published monthly by Messiah Lutheran Church. News articles and information are usually due on the third Monday of each month. The staff reserves the right to edit material presented for publication.

Messiah Lutheran Church links with other Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod churches to bring the gospel around the world. In addition, we have four mission projects: Rev. Jon Muhly, Moscow, Russia, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, MOST Ministries, and Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society.



If you're a Facebook member, search for "Messiah Grand Rapids" to find our new page. Click on the "Like" button near the top to have daily devotions and event reminders posted direct to your live feed. And be sure to recommend our page to all your Facebook friends!

Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast on Sundays on WOOD 105.7 FM at 6:30 am, and on WPRR 1680 AM at 12 pm. If you have a computer with speakers, you can listen to *The Lutheran Hour* on-line. Go to www.lutheranhour.org/ and follow the directions.

Large Print Bulletins

Large print bulletins are available for the divine services for those in need of one. Let your usher know if you desire to use one.

Worship For Shut-Ins

"Worship for Shut-Ins" is a Lutheran television 30 minute worship service. It includes the Propers for the day, prayers, and a LCMS pastor delivering a message that is one-on-one to the viewer. Also included are up to four choir selections. There are no commercials or repeats. It is not a tape of a Sunday morning service, but a special taping done just for the viewer at home, who is shut-in or who doesn't attend church for whatever reason. Watch on TCT (Total Christian Television) at 10:30 am Sunday morning or online at www.worshipforshutins.org.

Digital Antenna - 54.1, 54.2

Comcast Cable - 21

DirecTV - 377

Dish Network - 54

Recognizing Our Graduates



Messiah will recognize our 2010 high school graduates on **Sunday, June 6** at the 11:00 a.m. service. We are happy to celebrate with our members who are graduating:

Joshua Ambrose – Kenowa Hills
 Hannah Jordan – Grandville
 Nicole Oldenburg – Northview
 Jonathan Veitengruber – Rockford

Congratulations, graduates! May God continue to bless you and guide you.

Don't Forget God While on Vacation

Worship at a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregation while you're on vacation! If you want to locate a church in advance, use the LCMS website to find a church where you can worship. Here's how:

- ✦ go to www.lcms.org
- ✦ click on "Locate a ..." on the page's top right corner
- ✦ fill in city, state, zip and range fields to search for a church
- ✦ click on congregations listed to get particulars: address, phone, service times.
- ✦ bring Pastor a bulletin from the church you attended
- ✦ Remember your church, Messiah, before you leave by giving your weekly offerings.



What's Your Name?

Have any of these ever happened to you at Messiah:

- Somebody recognizes you by name and you're embarrassed because you don't recall his or her name?
- You see people at church who have been there "forever," but you only wave and smile because you can't remember their names?
- You see somebody who you think may be new...but maybe they're just from a different service and you don't want to be embarrassed by asking if they're a visitor?
- You attend a different service and actually feel like a stranger?

No matter the culture, a person's name is an important part of their identity. We like hearing our own name – it's affirming. Sharing your name is where relationships with others begin. And as we speak each others' names, we emulate Jesus, who calls his own sheep by name.

This is why the Board of Evangelism is working on reintroducing permanent name badges for members. These will be laminated badges to attach to your clothing by flexible clips or (at your request) magnets. There will also be new furniture in the church foyer where you can pick up and drop off your badges on the way in and out of worship – no more need to hunt in your mailbox!

We believe the simple act of wearing name badges can strengthen our fellowship: since it's impossible to remember everyone's name, it helps to be able to glance at someone's badge and refresh your memory. And we believe it can strengthen our welcome of visitors and guests; if we share our names with them, they may be comfortable doing the same with us!

Watch and listen for more information; we hope to have new name badges ready for our members on **Sunday, June 13.**

Youth Group News

During June, the Junior High youth plan to provide household help for senior citizens. The Senior High youth have a lot on their plate, including making a banner for the sanctuary, collecting donations for an area food bank, and having an End of the School Year Party! Watch for details on these events coming soon in family mailboxes and Sunday announcements.

Notes from the Choir Loft



As they get ready to enjoy their summer recess, thanks to this year's

Senior Choir: Barb Brinkman, Jonathan Chaffer, Judy Gerke, Shirley Hoese, Sheryl Keller, Debbie Krueger, Marian Meehleder, Kevin Mueller, Carol Mushong, Millie Rathbun, and Richard Wilson.

Thanks also go to Logan & Spencer Bohlinger, Jonathan Chaffer, C.J. Davis, Rachel Glenn, Megan & Sean Kearney, Brittany Keller, Megan Khodl, Dylan & Taylor Martinal, Chris Mueller, Anthony Muniz, Maegan O'Herin and Dale Oldenburg for their instrumental contributions to worship services in April and May.

During June, we will sing *Divine Service: Setting Three* on communion Sundays and the *Service of Prayer and Preaching* on non-communion Sundays.

We'll also introduce our newest hymn, *For All the Faithful Women* (number 855 in *Lutheran Service Book*), beginning on **Sunday, June 13**. The text by Lutheran pastor Herman Stuempfle praises God for the contributions of women throughout His people's history; it's paired with a sturdy folk tune from Finland. The gospel of Luke (which we hear in services throughout the summer) spotlights the role of women in Jesus' ministry and provides regular opportunities for us to sing and enjoy this rich hymn in the coming months.

2010 National Gathering

Please continue your prayers for the 15 youth and 3 adult leaders who have registered for the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering. Christopher & Sarah Ahrens, Jon Hoffman, Hannah Jordan, Lori & Megan Kearney, Jacob & Sean Khodl, Tim, Patti & Dylan Martinal, Marcus Muniz, Emily Quackenbush, Danielle & Dominick Sheridan, Kevin Singleton, Jonathan Veitengruber and Emily Whip are continuing with the final stretch of fund-raising and prep for the trip to New Orleans.



During April & May, the Gathering Group continued steady progress toward its fund-raising goal; the amount needed now stands at *\$1,993.94*. Thanks to the Easter Breakfast organizers, the Adult Bible Class, Messiah's Thrivent group and others for their kind donations! Members of Messiah can help the Gathering Group reach their goal by:

- ★ placing deposit bottles and cans in the box outside the fellowship hall. We have raised over \$525 to date;
 - ★ purchasing gift cards through Messiah's SCRIP program;
 - ★ joining Gordon Food Service's Fun Funds program; contact Alicia Muniz for details.
- Also, watch for the following fund-raisers:
- ★ Check out the *crafts* for sale in the fellowship hall foyer or the classroom hallway.
 - ★ Drop your *loose change* into the giant bottle found in the the fellowship hall foyer or the classroom hallway. Thanks for over \$134 in donations to date!
 - ★ watch for details on our final fund-raising efforts!

Summer Monday Night Services

At the elders meeting which was held 4-26 it was decided that we would suspend this years Monday night services, until we get our new pastor. We felt that it was the best thing for Messiah at this point in time. We ask that you attend a church in the area which you are vacationing. If you go to Google and type in Lutheran Church Missouri synod and then put in the city and state, it will give you a list of LCMS churches in your area, or contact the church office for help. God bless you each and every day as you vacation this summer.

Preschool News

On Friday, May 14, twenty-nine bright, eager, busy children graduated from our Preschool. Many of them will go on to Kindergarten; some need an extra year. All of them, including the seventeen children in the three- year –old classes, heard about Jesus and His great love for them here at Messiah. What wonderful witnessing opportunities our Preschool provides! This is all possible due to your support. Thank you for all the prayers, words of encouragement, and advertising by placing a sign in your yard.

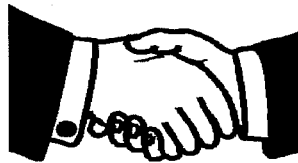
We are also very lucky at Messiah to have such a caring dedicated staff, who genuinely love the children and continue to have lots of fun while teaching. Please thank: Marlene Anderson who has 22 years on staff, Carol Mushong with 21 years, Diane Oppeneer with 20 years, and Tammy Wanhatalo who was rehired to replace Shirley Hoese this year.

Quilters

The Quilters have completed 67 quilts. Quilters will meet again in September after taking the summer off.

New Member Sunday

Get ready to meet our new brothers and sisters in Christ on Sunday, June 20!



At 9:45 a.m. that morning, all are invited to a welcome brunch in the fellowship hall. If you can bring a dish to pass, please sign up on the Adult Bible Class clipboard or at the Welcome Center. You'll be introduced to each of our new members from the past six months at the welcome brunch. Then, these new members will be officially recognized and welcomed during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Make your plans and mark your calendars to be with us on this special day, as we give thanks to God for the people he brings into our fellowship!

Camp Concordia Camperships

Did you know that over 2/3 of church workers say that church camp was a big influence on their going into a ministry profession?

Some financial assistance is available to all Messiah youth attending Camp Concordia this summer. Please submit your youth's name and date attending camp by calling Sharon Fahling by June 7th at 364-0156. Messiah Parish Service Guild is providing the funds and the amount will depend on the number of youth applying.

Annual Yard Sale - June 19

Mark your calendars for Messiah's Annual Yard Sale, Saturday, June 19, 9 am - 2 pm. If you would like to donate salable items, please bring them to the lower level of the church by Saturday, June 8. Proceeds from this year's sale will go to the Martinal Family. If you would like to do some pre-sale shopping or help the day of the sale, please contact Marian Meehleder.

Thanks from Social Ministry

THANK YOU to everyone who brought in all of the many baby items during the Social Ministry-sponsored collection during the month of May. The diapers, wipes, clothing, etc. will be given to the local Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS) office. These items are always much needed and appreciated.

25th Anniversary of Prayer Pals

April, 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of Prayer Pals here at Messiah. Plans are already underway to make this a special meeting of Prayer Pals. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or have ideas and suggestions, please contact Sherry Garchow.

What is Prayer Pals? Prayer Pals meet in April and October each year to draw new names. Interested ladies of Messiah draw a name from the basket of some other lady participating in the group and pray for that person for the next six months. At the end of the 6 months there is a pot luck supper and the identity of your secret prayer pal is revealed. Then new partners are drawn. Participation is completely voluntary throughout this group. Some ladies take a semester off, and then return. One other feature is an anonymous small gift exchange between prayer partners which is also completely optional.

Service Opportunity

Coffee Hosts set up and serve the snack and beverages following late service each Sunday. Those who serve may work with another family or on their own. More families are needed to provide for this time of fellowship with our members and guests. Those who serve generally serve only once or twice every calendar quarter. Please contact Diane Love in the church office by **June 21st** if you would like to serve in this way.

TOP TEN Reasons to Recommend Our Preschool

10. Safe, clean, fun place to play and learn.
9. Caring, experienced staff who continue to attend classes to keep their skills up to date.
8. Christ-centered curriculum - children learn about Jesus everyday.
7. Focused on Kindergarten readiness skills.
6. Children have the experience of singing once a week as Mr. Krueger plays piano.
5. You will have the joy of hearing a child you know sing in church on Preschool Sunday.
4. Kindergarten teachers have told us they LOVE to have students who have attended Messiah's Preschool.
3. Our activities are designed to teach social, cognitive, and large and small muscle skills.
2. Brings many un-churched families to Messiah.
1. It is part of the church's mission statement, "To know Christ and make Christ known."



Council Update

- ◆ Check your mailboxes for the congregational survey. This is another opportunity to provide your input into the call process.
- ◆ **Congregational Meeting, June 7th at 7:00 pm**, daycare & a meal will be provided starting at 6:00 pm. Reverend Maier, Reverend Walther, and Pastor Love will be here to explain the call process and answer questions.
- ◆ **Voters' meeting June 6th between services** to discuss capital expenditures for a new roof, parking lot, and boiler.

CAMP PARABLE . . . Come See What's Inside (VBS 2010)

Coming July 12 - 16. Volunteer and donation sign-up sheets will be available soon. Registrations can be done at www.messiahgr.org (Click on Education button, then Vacation Bible School button) and forms are available at the welcome center. See Patti Martinal or Melanie Kirchhoff with questions.

Church Extension Fund

When you put your funds into Michigan's Church Extension Fund, you can take satisfaction in knowing that you are investing in not only your family's future, but also in the future of the Lutheran Church in Michigan, supporting the sharing of our Lutheran faith and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through Michigan's Church Extension Fund investments, you are making a Christian connection to all generations. To discover how CEF can help you reach your savings goals, visit them on line @ www.mi-cef.org or call 800-242-3944 or contact Richard Tank at 690-4525 for more information. (This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy. Offers for sales of securities are by Offering Circular only. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in the Offering Circular. CEF investments are not SPIC or FDIC insured deposit accounts.)

Excel In Giving

The Church Extension Fund's Excel In Giving option offers convenience and security for individuals, efficiency and a more predictable cash flow for congregations and schools. With the introduction of its new Excel In Giving electronic fund transfer service, CEF hopes to make it easier for Michigan District Lutherans to meet their stewardship goals while providing a more consistent revenue stream for Michigan District Lutheran churches and schools. The name was inspired by 2 Corinthians 8:7, in which Paul exhorts Christians, "Just as you excel in everything . . . see that you also excel in the grace of giving."

Open House for Rev. Roberts

You are invited to attend an open house celebration on Sunday, June 6 for Reverend Walt Roberts, who has served at Holy Cross, Jenison for 20 years during his retirement. As his official service comes to a close we are pleased "To Give God the Glory" for the faithful service of Walt and his wife Gwen. Meet and Greet with Pastor and family begins at 2 pm at Holy Cross, Jenison, followed by a program at 3 pm and concluding with the Celebration Hymn "To God be the Glory" at 4 pm. Contact Deb Cheyne with any questions at 616-457-2420.



In Our Prayers

- ◆ For those with ongoing health concerns:
 - Doris Evert;
 - Bob Easdon, brother-in-law of Jackie Cobb;
 - Maguerite Hamilton, friend of Jackie Cobb;
 - Elizabeth Peacock, cousin of Sharon Fahling;
 - Linda Romig, cousin of Sharon Fahling;
 - Philip Formicola, friend of the Fahling's; and
 - John Budnik, nephew of Phil Fahling.
- ◆ For those in the military:
 - Cody Inman, grandson of Sandy Inman;
 - Nate Bueche, cousin of Renee Davis; and
 - Paul Fanning, brother of Sandy Hoffman.
- ◆ For our missionaries: Pastor Masih and Pastor Muhly.

Reminder: Those for whom prayers are requested will be placed in the bulletin for 2 weeks, and if a second request is received for an additional 2 weeks. Then that name will be removed. If a third request is received, that name will move from the bulletin to the list of prayer requests published in the monthly newsletter. A portion of this complete list will be published weekly in the bulletin. Please remember to keep the church office informed of changes to the prayer list. Finally, for privacy reasons, requests need to come from the individual or family for whom the prayers are requested, or from one who asks specifically to be included on our prayer list.