

THE VOICE

The Monthly Newsletter of MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

of Messiah

DECEMBER 2009

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Up on the Housetop

Christmas is coming, along with those age-old questions. How does Santa get down the chimney? What if someone does not have a chimney? How does that big bag of toys fit? How do the reindeer keep from slipping off the roof? These are very important questions, and I have found that "Santa is magic" usually takes care of most of them.

Scripture also has a story of a rooftop and a miraculous entrance. Do you remember it? This story is found in Mark 2, vs. 1-12. *When he (Jesus) returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.*

This story also brings up some important questions. Why was it so hard for people to get to Jesus on that day? What did the people believe Jesus could offer? Why was this so urgent? And, related to this, why did they use such an extreme course of action to bring this man to Jesus? Some similar questions are good questions for us to ask today. Why is it so hard for people to get to Jesus? Do we as a church create any of these barriers? Do we block the way?

And ... what do we really, truly believe Jesus offers? How urgent do we feel it is for us to bring people to a place where they can hear the gospel? And what might we be willing to do, what measures might we be willing to take, to bring a friend to church or into relationship with the living Christ?

I love the story of the paralyzed man. This man has no way in the world of getting to Jesus. Yet his friends clearly love him and they do whatever it takes to get him there, and it works. Scripture tells us that he is carried in and he walks out!

As you think about holiday worship and holiday ministry opportunities, as you think about the love experienced in our community of faith, as you think about the meaning of Christ's love in your own life, and as you think about those you know, why not consider doing something out of the ordinary this holiday season. Extend an invitation (or two or three or more) to church, slow down and take time to really and intentionally listen, begin sharing more and more stories of what God has done in your life, show extraordinary love even if a relationship is strained, remove a barrier and find a way for someone who couldn't otherwise get there to stand in the presence of Christ.

May this calling be a part of your magical holiday season!

Love and blessings,
Pastor Dawn

Confronting Death

A Christian Approach to the End of Life

Beginning Saturday, December 12, our Saturday morning Bible study will take a break from our study of Paul's letter to the Corinthians and take a look at how our faith in Christ makes all the difference in facing dying and death. Jesus' birth, death and resurrection is key to understanding our experience of life and death on Earth.

We will be using a DVD and study guide written by author and Pastor Walter Wangerin who recently fought a serious battle with cancer. He writes, *"You and I sooner or later are going to experience what comes to all people; we are going to experience dying. But there is a difference between us and the world- the world looks away from that fact and tries to hide it as much as possible- but we a faithful people have the power and ability to look death straight in the eye and understand it."*

For five Saturday mornings we will begin with devotions, watch and listen to a ten-minute reflection by Walt Wangerin, and then explore scripture and questions raised in the study guide. These are the topics we will explore.

1. Discovering serious illness
2. Grieving before death
3. Caring for the one who is not sick
4. How do we handle the pain?
5. Confronting the dying itself

As stated earlier, we will begin on Saturday, December 12 and continue on December 19, 26 and January 2 and 9. We start at 8:30am and end at approximately 9:40 am. The coffee will be on, and all are welcome. If you have any questions, give me a call.

In His service,
Pastor Chuck

Feed My Starving Children

Thank you to the 130 Messiah volunteers signed up to "Feed My Starving Children" December 4-6. Because 5,000 volunteers have now registered, registration is closed. Please pray for all of our volunteers. If you would like to contribute, meals cost only seventeen cents each! Place checks in the yellow pew envelopes, and put them in the offering. Thank you Messiah for your willingness to serve those most in need. If you would like more information on "Feed My Starving Children" talk with Pastor Dawn Mass or go to www.onemillionmeals.info.

Fundraising Made Simple!

The Manna Gift Card Program is here, an exciting new fundraising program for Messiah. This program allows Messiah to fundraise while we shop and do the things we do everyday—at no additional cost to you!

The gift cards and certificates are the same gift cards available from local and national retailers. Nationally known retailers include Jewel, Dominicks, JC Penney, Kohl's, Best Buy, Shell, Speedway, Starbucks, The Home Depot and Subway all participate in the scrip program along with hundreds of others. Local businesses are also welcome to participate. You can view a complete list of vendors at mannaexpress.net.

How can these retailers help us raise money? It's simple. Partnered vendors agree to sell gift cards to Messiah at a discount. Families like yours buy the gift cards at full face value, and we keep the difference to support our charitable programs—no selling involved.

Put your everyday shopping dollars to work. Earn money for Messiah without spending anything additional. Simply purchase gift cards during weekend services. We are set up in the Gathering Place, so please stop by and make us a regular part of your week. The cards can be used for groceries, gasoline, clothing, entertainment, and household goods.

Stop by and purchase your gift cards today.

If you have questions or would like to help, contact David Kimes, 526-6507 or waukimes@aol.com



Pastor Chuck blesses one of the horses at Messiah's Blessing of the Animals.

Notes from the Messiah Spirituality Center

Pastor Dawn Hass, (815) 404-3431



Healing Heart and Soul During the Holidays

If you or someone you love is experiencing depression this season, Messiah has many Christ-centered resources in our Spirituality Center on coping with stress, change, and loss during the holidays.

Holiday depression can spring from many sources: the loss of loved ones, job stress, unmet goals, financial pressures, difficult memories, etc. Many of us have traditional images of the "ideal" holiday—a loving family gathered around a cozy fire, the aroma of homemade sweets from the kitchen, the trimming of a freshly cut tree. These "Hallmark moments" are not always our reality, no matter how hard we try.

Care for your spirit this season by honoring your feelings, asking for what you need, and learning more about healthy self-care. Consider joining one of Messiah's support groups or starting one of your choice.

May the Peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones!

Gift of the Spirit for December

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert so that the people whom I myself formed might declare my praise.

Isaiah 43:18-19

November Council Highlights

Grace Jorgensen, 526-4306



The November council meeting began with Pastor Dawn reading Mark 10: 1-5 as part of the Loving Community exercise. Barry Polhemus continued the meeting with devotions and opening prayer.

During the discussion of the budget, council members agreed that besides reporting the actual budget numbers to the congregation there needs to be an emphasis on reminding them that most of the savings in expenses have come because of reductions in employee salaries and elimination of positions. At the time of the November council meeting, revenues were down \$67,000, and we have spent \$48,000 less in expenses.

Pastor Dirk reported we are seeing an average of 2.5 new Sunday School students attending each week. He announced that the mission trip for the high school students next summer will be to Denver, Colorado. He reminded everyone of the choirs' upcoming Nativity Walk. The new Messiah web-site should be operational by December. During the 9 and 10:30 services Stephen Ministers are available for prayer during communion. Pastor Dirk also reported that he is hoping we could start a prayer ministry.

In Pastor Dawn's report, she referred council members to Hebrews 13:1 and stressed the importance of mutual love. She reminded council members that even though we are struggling to improve Messiah's financial position through various fundraising efforts, we also need to focus on evangelism, the worship schedule and stewardship.

Dave Kimes reported the gift card program will be officially up and running in November. Dominick's, Jewel, Joe Caputo, Wal-Mart and Kohl's will be available for cash and carry purchase each week. All others will need to be ordered.

Randy Johnson reported that there have been numerous problems with the plumbing in the preschool area and by the church library. He is concerned that the problem may lead to some more expensive repairs.

The next regular meeting of the Messiah Council will be December 1, 2009 at 7pm in the Martin Luther Center.

Mission Interpreter Moments

At the conclusion of the first Messiah Soapbox Derby, Messiah members collected 637 bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all the Oldie Moldys, Grimy Goos and Squeaky Cleans for your generous donations. Thank you also to the Lake Zurich UPS Store for donating the shipping boxes and packing services. A Messiah member donated the cost of shipping. We shipped a total of 192 pounds of soap!

Mary Anderson, the ELCA's Metro Chicago Mission Interpreter Coordinator shared in one of her weekly memos that every day an average of 1,000 people die from AIDS and AIDS-related conditions. The number of orphans in South Africa grew to 1.4 million at the end of 2007 from 780,000 at the end of 2003. That means that together with the effects of poverty an estimated 500 children a day become orphaned in Africa. These statistics bring to mind a quote that was used on the bulletin cover by Immanuel Lutheran Church in Colfax, Illinois for the joint service with Messiah members in support of the Food Resource Bank.

When someone steals a man's clothes, we call him a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry man, the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the man who needs it, the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the man who has no shoes; the money you hoard up belongs to the poor.

Basil the Great
Bishop of Caesarea (ca 365)

This is a challenging message; especially during such rough economic times. While the message was written by Basil the Great, we know the challenge comes from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace Jorgensen, 526-4306

Good Samaritan Ministry

Lana Steinecker, 438-5257

The Giving Tree

The first weekend of the Giving Tree was a huge success, and we're so grateful to all of you who took names and made donations. This is such a huge project we could never do it without the good and generous people from Messiah. Please make sure to return your gifts by Sunday, December 6. If you would like to help deliver to families in Lake County, please give me a call. We'll be delivering on Saturday, December 12. Thanks again.

Tri-County Pregnancy and Parenting Services

Did you know Tri-County has two thrift shops in Lake County? One is located right here in Wauconda on Route 176, and the other is in Grayslake at 55 N. Barron Road (Route 83). Both shops take donations of material goods. If you'd like to donate items, Wauconda will take donations Tuesday through Saturday, 10-4, and Grayslake will accept them Thursday, through Saturday 10-4. They are also in desperate need of volunteers to help sort, price and work the store. They are very flexible and will work with your schedule. If you could spare a few hours a week or even a month, please give them a call. Wauconda shop is 526-0383 and Grayslake is 231-5564.

Joyful Outreach Ministry (JOM)

Friday-Sunday, December 4-6: "Feed My Starving Children" (5,000 volunteers at the Lake County Fairground package meals for 1 million children)

Sunday, December 6: The lively and educational video, "Why Christmas?" with Nicky Gumbel will be shown at 10:30am as part of the Adult Education Forum series.

Thursday, December 10: The Alpha Reunion and Celebration Dinner scheduled for 6:30 to 9pm has been *postponed*.
New date TBA.

Saturday, December 12: Live Nativity Walk (3 and 5pm)

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services (3pm, family service; 5pm, contemporary service; 11pm, traditional service)

2010

February 16: Messiah Mardi Gras
(details to come)

Things to Watch for

JOM is also spearheading efforts for a new website and logo to kick-off Messiah's 50th anniversary!

Help the environment! Help Messiah! Tote bags are available for just \$5 at the Welcome Center.

Julie Kendrick, 526-8467

Thank You! From the Generosity Team

Thank you to everyone who made a financial commitment to Messiah for 2010. If you were out of town, lost your card, or simply forgot, drop it in the mail or in the offering plate next time you are at church. No gift is too small!

With just a couple of weeks left in the year, I'm asking that everyone prayerfully consider catching up on your 2009 pledge or consider increasing your giving. The numbers speak for themselves; we are projecting to be down in giving by \$71,474 by the end of the year. The only way our leadership team has been able to balance this deficit is to cut salaries of our pastors and church staff in addition to cutting spending in various ministries by a total of \$75,000. Whatever you can give will help.

One other reminder, the holiday season can be one of the most stressful times of the year in peoples' lives. Make it Simple can help. Just keep the message in mind that if we live more simply we can live more generously. So when you are running around trying to find that perfect gift, sometimes the perfect gift is the gift of you—your time.

Keep it simple and Merry Christmas!

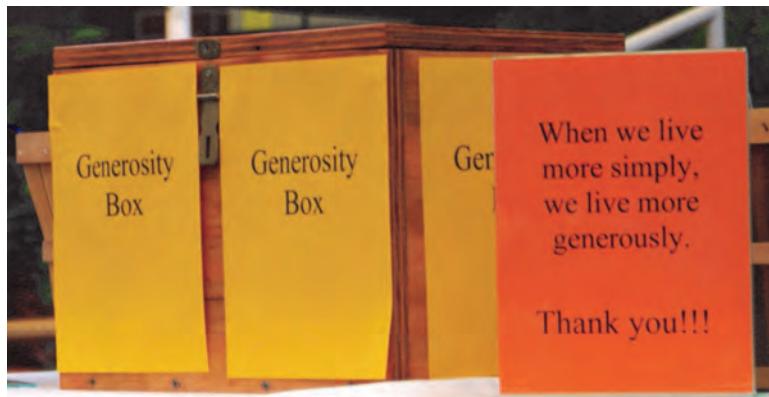
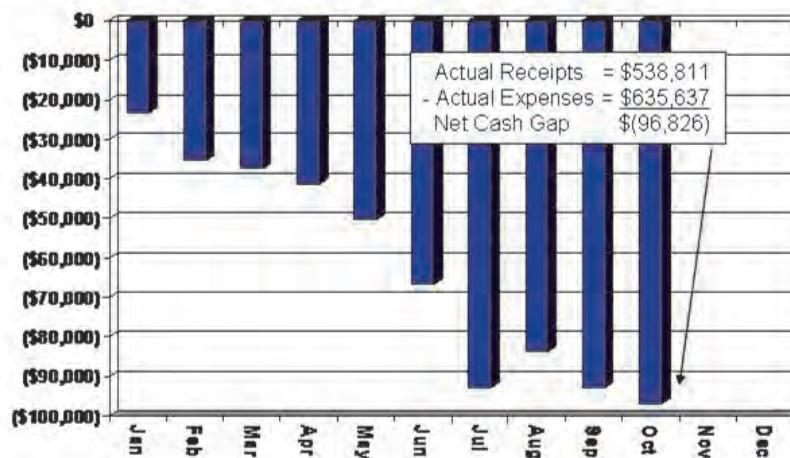
Your Generosity Coach,
Dave Jarcik
719-2865
generosity@messiah-wauconda.org

Messiah's 2009 Year-to-Date Financials

October YTD vs. Budget

Receipts	
- 2009 Budget	\$606,026
- Actual	\$538,811
Better/(Worse) than Budget	\$(67,215)
Expenses	
- 2009 Budget	\$683,975
- Actual	\$635,637
Better/(Worse) than Budget	\$48,338

Actual YTD Net Cash Position



Pledges are appreciated at Messiah.



Alex's walkway—See page Boy Scout story on page 9.

from your Health & Wellness Team

For my health ... for my family's health

Cigarette smoking is dangerous. Not only is it responsible for 90% of lung cancer deaths, it also causes most cancers of the bladder, larynx and esophagus. Tobacco smoke contains 4,000 chemicals, including over 60 that are known to cause cancer. Carbon monoxide, arsenic and lead are all found in tobacco smoke.

Secondhand smoke—even the smallest amount—is unsafe for everyone exposed to it. Children are especially hurt by it because their bodies are growing at the very time they are inhaling poisons. Unborn babies whose pregnant mothers smoke and babies exposed to secondhand smoke after birth are more likely to die from SIDS. Women who smoke give birth to smaller babies and babies with weaker lungs—which put those children at higher risk for several health problems. When the parent smokes, the child is more likely to have bronchitis and pneumonia. An asthmatic child will have more frequent, more severe attacks. More ear infections and other ear canal problems are often part of the picture, too.

Quitting smoking is hard work—but it can be done. While the process is uncomfortable, it is not painful. The discomfort lasts a short time, but the benefits last a lifetime. People who have quit smoking feel better. They have more energy, a healthier look about themselves and aren't as worried about their health and the health of their children. They're proud of their accomplishment! In quitting smoking, former smokers give themselves and their loved ones a wonderful gift.

Internet resources to help you quit

- Cancer.org
- Surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco
- Americanheart.org
- Lungusa.org
- Nicotine-anonymous.org

Prayer: *Loving God, thank you for giving me the capacity to love. Show me how to put love to its best use in everything I do today. Amen*

EMMANUEL



Messiah's 3rd Annual Live Nativity Walk

Saturday, December 12

3pm and 5pm

Come join us as we hear the Christmas story retold and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Emmanuel)

The story will be told both indoors and outdoors and will include live animals.

Friends and relatives are welcome!

Refreshments will be served.



Pastor Dirk and Pastor Chuck at Blessing of the Animals.

Christian Education

Bonnie Murphy, 550-1343—Susan Vrenios, 438-6280, Co-directors



Treats at the Fall Fest

Fall Fest was blessed with a beautiful sunny day and nearly 200 people attending this fun event sponsored by Messiah Children's Ministries. A big thank you to all who helped with the crafts, games, face painting, trunk or treat and parking control. We would like to especially thank the Cat in the Hat for making his appearance (John Voeller), Pastor Dirk for sharing his talent in making balloon animals, Pastor Chuck for sharing his amazing train collection and Joe Schuhknecht, also known

as Tractor Joe, for the thrilling hayrides. Our thanks to George White of Country Bumpkin for sharing his tractor wagon. Without all the help, this event would not be possible.

We wish to express our thanks to Randy Johnson and Carol Pytlarz for their combined 44 years of teaching

our 5th graders. Bill and Mary Lomas have shown patience to our special needs students. Currently they are supporting two little boys in their classrooms. We welcome Heather Graber as a shepherd for the kindergartners. She will be sharing this role with Jamie Carroll.

Questions kids ask:

Q: Why do I have to do chores?

A: There are a few reasons. First, good families need to work together. Second, good family members want to help their families. Lastly, doing a chore shows that you are taking responsibility and that is part of growing up. Your parents aren't trying to have you do their work when you are asked to help. They are teaching you to be responsible and helpful. The Bible says: *Those who won't care for their own relatives, especially those living in the same household, have denied what we believe. Such people are worse than unbelievers.*



Pastor Dirk—our balloon man



New Members

Pictured above with their sponsors

William and Roxanne Blowers—Wauconda—William is retired, and Roxanne is in sales.

James and Patricia Clark—Lisa Curry and Michael Clark—Hawthorn Woods—Retired

Bill and Susan Guff—Haley, Caroline and Tara—Lake Zurich—Bill is an insurance director.

Jessica and Peter Harren—Lake in the Hills—Jessica is a seminary student, and Peter is an electrical engineer.

Matthew and Janet Huffman—Trevor—Wauconda—Janet is a teacher, and Matt is a project manager.

George and JoAnne Thompson—Samantha—Wauconda—JoAnne is an executive assistant, and George is a sign engraver.

Library News

Grace Jorgensen, 526-4306



Looking for an inexpensive grab bag or white elephant gift for a Christmas party? Why not consider purchasing a book from the Messiah Library on-going used book sale. Paperbacks are 50 cents and hardbacks are \$1.

Proceeds from the used book sale supplement the library budget.

Christmastime is a great opportunity to check out a book from the Messiah Library to relax with after a long day of shopping or wrapping presents. It is also a great way to spend time with your kids by reading one of the many selections from the children's area on the true meaning of Christmas.

Just a reminder. Please return all materials to the bins in the library area. The library runs on the honor system. The recommended time for checkout is two weeks,



Messiah's Cherub choir



Thanksgiving at Messiah

Spirit Dancers



Dance is an awesome way to bring praise to God and to enhance our worship experience. We have been blessed to have these terrific kids involved in the dance ministry!

Spirit Dancers are now taking a well-deserved break until the first Wednesday in January, when they will start up for the year. We welcome anyone 11 years and older who would like to join this group that will be practicing in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays from 5 to 6pm.

Our Little Spirit Dancers will be dancing at the 3pm service on Christmas Eve. We practice in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays from 6 to 7pm. Also, on Christmas Eve, Dancer's Pointe will be bringing the gift of dance to worship at the 11pm service.

Karen Holmes, 707-0089.

The Giving Corner

**Tis the season:
Give more through life insurance.**

Would you like to contribute to our congregation, your alma mater or favorite charity? Doing so can be easier than you think.

One way is by buying life insurance and naming your organization of choice as beneficiary. Using life insurance as a charitable gift may allow you to give more than you dreamed possible.

To learn more about how you can use life insurance to give more, contact your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative today.

John Messerschmidt, 526-1553
john.messerschmidt@thrivent.com.

Thrivent's Matching Gifts Program

This is an opportunity related to your 2009 giving. If you are a Thrivent member, you have the opportunity to have your gift up to \$600 for 2009 matched \$1 for every \$2. That means your gift of \$600 becomes \$900, or your gift of \$300 becomes \$450, or your three gifts of \$200 become \$300 each. Any way you want to give up to \$600 before the end of the year, the matching funds apply. Also, if you have more than one Thrivent member in your household, this matching gift is good for each Thrivent member over the age of sixteen.

To take advantage of this matching gift program, this is what you need to do: complete the "Giving Plus" form you pick up in the church office or Welcome Center. Use the organization ID #504 751 322. Write your check to "Messiah Preschool" and in the memo write "Preschool Facilities" which ensures that your gift goes to the church as a donation from the preschool for facilities use. In the end, this is a donation to Messiah. Then simply place your check and form in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or the church treasurer's mailbox. Note: each gift needs its own form.

Thank you so much for considering this matching gift program. Every gift we give makes our Messiah ministries stronger. And—thanks to Thrivent for supplementing this program.

If you are not a Thrivent member but are interested in learning more about Thrivent or Thrivent membership, please contact Messiah member John Messerschmidt, 526-1553 or john.messerschmidt@thriveint.com.

Blessings to you and your family!
Pastor Dawn and Messiah's Generosity Team

A Special Thanks

In regard to the neighboring Boy Scout article: We would like to add—none of these projects would have been done without Vinnie Jordan's dedicated leadership and sincere interest in his church.

Thanks to all!

Jack Olson
514-8448

Boy Scout Troop 90

Vincent Jordan, 526-3316
Eagle Coach



Messiah's new terracing by Jason Seidenzahl

In 2005 Boy Scout Troop 90 moved from the Federated Church to Messiah. The Boy Scouts truly appreciate the excellent facilities, the availability to store their trailers and the use of the parking lot to sell trees in 2007 and 2008. The leaders of the troop and the Construction and Property Committees at Messiah have worked out a relationship that has benefited the troop as well as the church. Over the past six years, many of the boys in the troop have chosen projects at Messiah to do for their Eagle rank. This collaboration has been an outstanding way to improve the facilities at the church with no cost to the congregation. Each boy had to turn in a plan, acquire donations for all materials, organize volunteers and direct the volunteers to complete the project. Take a walk around the church grounds one day and see all that your local Boy Scout Troop has done for our church.

- Jonathan Seidenzahl—striped the parking lot
- Troy Snelton—dumpster enclosure
- Tom Knudsen—fence, gate and landscaping inside the Memorial Garden
- Kyle Palmer—landscaping and fence on the east side of the Memorial Garden
- Alex Conway—preschool walkway
- Tom Munson—storage rooms in The Rock basement
- Tony Jordan—landscaping and small patio around The Rock
- Jason Seidenzahl—terracing and landscaping near the entrance to the Enrichment Center

The Scouts would like to thank Jack Olson, Randy Johnson, Mike Anderson and Jeff Pennino for taking the time to work with the boys to coordinate these projects.



Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on
whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14

The shuffle of the Christmas season brings anything but peace. While reading my Starbucks coffee cup, the decorative printed ornament on the side stated, "We invite YOU to LISTEN to your DESIRES and to RENEW your HOPE ... WISH. It's what make the holidays the HOLIDAYS." Ok, so I thought about this from a Christian perspective. It's good for me to listen to God's word because that will generally give me the desires of my heart. To renew my hope would be my way of affirming that I trust God fully for all things that He brings into my life. I chuckled at the word "wish ..." It does conjure up all sorts of possibilities. With God all things are possible. *Apart from me you can do nothing.* John 15:5. It's not a wish that makes the holidays the holidays, it is the birth of Jesus and all the hope that He provides.

December will find our children joyfully decking the halls with all the festivities of Christmas—trees, ornaments, stockings, wreaths, gingerbread boys and girls and angels. We will conclude with the angel who appeared to the shepherds with the "good news" of the birth of Christ.

We are accepting enrollment for our Kids Club Christmas break care on December 21, 22, 23 and December 28, 29, 30. If you need some time for your last-minute preparations before the holidays, please consider Kids Club for your child. Call us at 526-7112 if you have questions.

Blessed holidays,
Eileen Miller
Director



Let's just see how high we can build this wall.

Messiah Preschool News

November was filled with thanksgiving and delicious foods! We are so thankful to all the families that share their precious children with Messiah's preschool. We are so thankful for the many people who support the preschool in numerous ways including participating in our fundraising activities. We are especially thankful for the opportunity to prepare and share food with friends.

In December we will enjoy helping the children learn more about the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ! The children will learn to tell that wondrous story about His birth. Through skits and props, all of the children will participate in telling the Christmas story. The beauty of Christmas carols will help us recall that glorious gift.

The children are usually well versed in receiving gifts, but will learn more about the joy of giving throughout the month. They will create handmade presents for their families, make cards for children who are spending the holidays in hospitals and participate in an all-school drive to collect food items for the area food pantries. Many of the teachers will challenge the children to think about "What do you think baby Jesus might like?" as they find items from home to share. The month will conclude with a time to gather with families for the children to share their gifts of song, storytelling and handmade creations.

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year has begun, so tell your family and friends to join us soon for a tour and introduction to the wonderful learning experience at Messiah's preschool! Contact us at messiah.preschool@messiah-wauconda.org or 526-7476.

Blessings,
Lynda Janezic



Pastor Dirk teaching kids to share in kids sermon

Warning to All Don't Let This Happen to You!

This fire was caused by household batteries, waiting to be recycled, in a metal bucket. My step-daughter's home was seriously damaged by this fire. The closet the fire was in was so hot it melted her china dishes. No one was home so, thankfully, no one was hurt. Firefighters contained the fire in twenty minutes, but there was extensive smoke damage. *Everything* had to come out, and they will be out of the house for six months.

Other precautions to consider:

- Use a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box for important documents (standard filing cabinets can melt)
- Take photos of everything in your house, even inside the drawers, and store in a safe place
- Store batteries vertically, as in the original packaging
- Do not mix batteries with coins in your pockets
- Firefighters say most fires start in the heating element of the dishwasher, unattended toaster ovens and stoves

Good luck,
Bev Halvorsen



4 Strings Attached Holiday Violin Concert

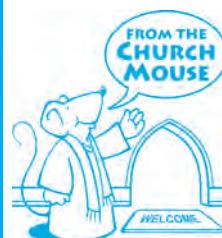


We'll be experiencing another treat on December 6 at the 9 and 10:30 services when the 4 Strings Attached perform for us. Talented violinists ranging from 3 to 15 years of age will perform a variety of classical pieces and Christmas songs. This group has performed at the Woodstock Opera House, Symphony Center at Orchestra Hall and numerous venues in the Greater Chicago Area. They have recently toured Guadalajara, Mexico, and central Florida.

Lori Ciezak, 815-893-0644

Sam

Hi Folks,



It's Sam the church-mouse here with the news.

Congratulations to Amanda Miller and Lisa Rohlwing for running the Chicago Marathon on October 11. The proud spectators included Chris and Bonnie Miller and John and Vickie Rohlwing. Great job ladies—not many of us could accomplish what you did.

There was a picture of Jason Seidenzahl in the *Daily Herald* on November 12. He and other Scouts from Troop 90 retired old flags during a ceremony on Veteran's Day at the Wauconda American Legion Post 911.

Keep those notes and e-mails coming.

Until next time ... **Sam**

Birthdays in December

Haley, Nicole	1	Myers, Olivia	8	Boyko, Chris	16	Scott, James	21
Kasula, Steffan	1	Myers, Reagan	8	Hass, Gene	16	Sharp, Joseph	22
Meyers, David	1	Rasmussen, Erik	8	Heinz, Tyler	16	Aigner, Allison	23
Fehsenfeld, Michelle	2	Robinson, Amy Jo	8	Hunt, Jenny	16	Hartmann, Samantha	23
Felderman, Will	2	Stapleton, Jonathan	8	Kelderhouse, Lindsay	16	Peika, Sandra	23
Mandel, Lucas	2	Crispe, Amy	9	Kimes, Courtney	16	Christ, Diana	24
Meese, James Jr.	2	Gareiss, Chaundre	9	Lundgren, Abigail	16	Morales, Jan	24
Cazares, Julian	3	Holden, Linda	10	Milosch, Chip	16	Hass, Dan	25
Drobnik, Justin	3	Nebert, Melana	10	Rabe, Emily	16	Hazen, Maggie	25
Nick, Eddy	3	Pakaski, Matthew	10	Holden, Kimberly	17	McCann, Julia	25
Blair, Jay	4	Scott, Sydney	10	Kasula, Alex	17	Reutenuer, Kelsey	25
Fosbinder, Christ	4	Danner, Thomas	11	Pakaski, Cindy	17	Rudden, Catherine	25
Murphy, Pete	4	Kristof, Jimmy	11	Scott, Kris	17	Pytlarz, Carol	26
Rueb, Charlie	4	Pressney, Karen	11	Tesch, Holly	17	Schwarz, David	26
Christoph, John	5	Vrenios, Susan	11	Thompson, Bill	17	Day, John	27
Gomez, Maximus	5	Yacono, Alexander	11	Wynveen, Jan	17	Dopita, Andrew	27
Harding, Rick	5	Buesching, Danielle	12	Barna, Mary Ellen	18	Dopita, Kerry	27
Kleiner, Tessa	5	Burmeister, Mason	12	Charnogorsky, Jeff	18	Janezic, Steven	27
Norris, Bill	5	Ciezak, Jade	12	Gonzales, Rey	18	Kerkerling, Matthew	27
Pugesek, Erik	5	McIntosh, Corey	12	Holmes, Karen	18	Logan, Desiree	27
Wylie, Stephanie	5	Wiersma, Wyatt	12	Kendrick, Julie	18	Berg, Cole	28
Duff, Callum	6	Winters, Lois	12	Pakaski, Bob	18	Graber, Tom	28
Jones, Linkolin	6	Everhart, Samantha	13	Renalli, Julie	18	Jones, Stacey	28
Kelderhouse, Paul	6	Houston, Sarah	13	Rinard, Sharon	18	Kidd, Garret	28
Krause, Mick	6	Lundstedt, Lauren	13	Anderson, Ethan	19	Boyko, Tegan	29
Little VI, William	6	Moser, Matthew	13	Anderson, Joshua	19	Neeland, Pat	29
Maki, Wendy	6	Cooper, Sarah	14	Kroes, Kimberly	19	Peterson, Amy	29
Mathiesen, Alex	6	Klesch, Melissa	14	Brinkman, Bob	20	Wiersma, Georgia	29
Olson, Chris	6	Sierocki, Ed	14	Broj, Glenn	20	Kunath, Bryan	30
Ahlgren, Lance	7	Burch, Tim	15	Cudworth, Brandy	20	Nick, Madisen	30
Jones, Stacy	7	Dick, Marilyn	15	Shepherd, Krista	20	O'Malley, Katelyn	30
Schuhknecht, Kevin	7	Foley, Jim	15	Wozny, Susan	20	Orníg, Samantha	30
Frey, Hunter	8	Talbot, Joyce	15	Epstein, Brooke	21	Anderson, Brian	31
Myers, Grant	8	Thornburg, Carol	15	Marquis, Robin	21	Hoy, Mark	31
Myers, James	8	Vrenios, Ryan	15	Petralia, Alex	21	Morrison, Dee	31

We are sorry to have missed two birthdays in November—Suzanne Atzel on November 17 and Pat Voeller on November 29. Make sure you have your birthdays registered at the office (usually when you become a member) for them to appear in birthdays for the month.

Help Needed



Looking for a way to share your talents and skills? The church office is looking for volunteers for the following:

- Receptionist(s)
- Office help for special projects

We are in need of several volunteers to help out the church office staff with answering the phone, greeting people, and performing light office duties. Time commitment would be three hours, once per week. We have several time slots available. No experience necessary!

There is a certain fulfillment in life that can only come from serving others. God wants everyone to

be an active participant—not just a spectator, in this spiritual journey called life. So, please put your



If you can volunteer or have any questions, please contact me at 526-5922, or e-mail me at rwm134@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for your interest in volunteering.

Blessings!

Rachel Mergenthaler, 526-5878

Thank You

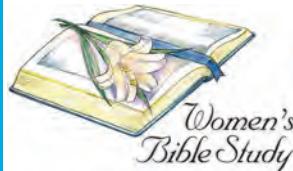
to the following for your Special Gifts!

In Memory of George Anderson

Dan and Nancy Boe
Richard and Felicia Lathan
Christine Wallace
Lauren and Christ Fosbinder
Dean and Karen Logan
Mary Miller
Ernie MacLagan

Deborah Circle

We will meet Wednesday, December 9 at 9:30am at the home of Elsie Barish, 471C Valley View Road, Lake Barrington. Joan Hill will be the co-hostess. We will be assembling stockings for the PADS guests. If you need to sign up for items for the stockings, please call Jo Ann, 540-0835.



Celebrate

Messiah's 50+ Club

Inspired by the many couples who were still standing when Pastor Dawn asked, "Who has been married 50 or more years?" We would like to honor those couples and celebrate their many years of marriage. On Sunday, February 14, Messiah will have a pot luck dinner starting at 5pm. The marriage relationship is an intentional, deeply involved commitment to share love that continually calls us to open our hearts. We would like to uplift and celebrate God's gift of marriage. Mark your calendars for this evening dinner where the entire congregation will gather to honor, laugh and hear how so many from our church family have matured during 50+ years of marriage

Steve Karnatz, 526-2055.

Note from Trudy a few weeks ago ...

Words cannot express my gratitude to the people of Messiah. The cards, prayers and the dinners are just phenomenal. I wish to thank everyone for the kindness and compassion that is shown to me and my family.

*Love,
Trudy and Sam Elizondo*

The Marriage

You Always Wanted

Dr. Gary Chapman, author of The Five Love Languages and renowned marriage counselor, is holding a one day seminar "The Marriage You Always Wanted" in Lake Zurich March 20. This is a tremendous opportunity to hear this renowned speaker. A growing marriage is a healthy marriage.

Please watch the bulletin and *The Voice* for more details of this event and the one mentioned above. For more information or to volunteer to help with the planning for the dinner, please call Steve or Nancy Karnatz, 526-2055.



Order your poinsettia to decorate Messiah's Sanctuary for Christmas at the table in the Gathering Place. You can choose red or white. They are \$12 each.

You can pick up your plants after the 11pm service on Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve.

Thanks!
Judy Burch, 638-5468

THE VOICE *of Messiah*

is a monthly newsletter of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
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(All phone numbers used in THE VOICE are area code 847 unless listed otherwise.)

Worship Services

SATURDAY, 5pm

SUNDAY, 7:30, 9 and 10:30am

(See back cover for Christmas Eve schedule)

Join in the fellowship between services!

Our Featured Advertiser:

**BRUCE N. TINKOFF
TINKOFF, POPKO AND ASSOCIATES**



Messiah's Family

In Our Prayers ...

Joe Barna
Jules and Marilyn Becker
Zach Carlson and family
Diane Carpenter
Penny Claiborne

Ester Dennis
Sue Kasula
Ryan Vrenios

Birth Announcements ...

Luke and Nicole Markko, a daughter, Kaylee Jane (proud grandparents, Bob and Beth Markko; proud great grandparents, Ed and Donna Kulowitch)



Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism We Welcome ...

Chase Gillian Dianis on October 18
Juliana Hope Hartmann on November 7
Trevor James Hoffman on November 8
Dominic Lee Ciaburri on November 14

We Extend Our Condolences to ...

Carol Ribar at the death of her brother-in-law, Ken Rode
Rob and Denise Hoskins at the death of Denise's grandmother, Ann Pruchniak
Dee Kupsky at the death of her aunt, Judy Kupsky
Lauren Fosbinder at the death of her aunt Pearl Schiller
To the family and friends of Trudy Elizondo

THE VOICE

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
25225 W. Ivanhoe Road
Wauconda, IL 60084-2405
(847) 526-7161

Return Service Requested



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"Sharing Jesus' Love"

Time Sensitive



Christmas Eve Services Thursday, December 24

- 3pm—Family Worship
- 5pm—Family Worship with Holy Communion
- 11pm—Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

DECEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER
