



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

April 2009 Volume 29, Issue 4



## NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

*Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*  
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Our alleluias echo throughout our living. Our special Easter offering is part of our celebration as we help to share the life and love that we experience in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Our Easter offering strengthens our ability to provide

- \* regular opportunities to celebrate the resurrection through worship. Alleluia!
- \* programs for people to gather to study God's word together. Alleluia!
- \* for Brian Rude in his ministry with those living with HIV/Aids. Alleluia!
- \* help for those in need through such ministries as NeighborAid. Alleluia!
- \* resources, such as staff and facilities, to enable us to share Jesus Christ with all people. Alleluia!

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

## CLERGY CORNER

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### HOLY WEEK

In recent times, there has been a revival of interest in Holy Week and an attempt to recapture some of the flavour of worship from earlier Christian times. We see this trend in “Lent and the Three Days,” a new section of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (see pages 240-270). While we won’t make use of all the suggestions in the worship book for these services, they are helpful ideas.

For many people, modern life seems to crowd out interest and ability in observing Lent. The services of Holy Week are another form of preparation for Easter celebrations.

Here are some of the things that the people who have helped to shape our worship book have to say to us about Holy Week:

Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape.

These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus’ own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that “after three days he will rise again.” (Mark 10:34).

The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life. (From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights

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The notes in our worship book tell us:

Holy Week begins with Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday). On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus’ triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation.

On Maundy Thursday, we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus’ passing over from death to life.

The Good Friday service continues the journey through the Three Days of Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection.

On the night before Easter Day, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ’s passage from death to life. The service includes strong signs: new fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and Word of baptism, the first resurrection meal. And powerful words: the great saving stories of Hebrew scriptures and the first Easter gospel. We keep this wondrous night in the spirit of vigil, our lamps lit, awaiting Christ’s coming both now and at the end of time.

I invite you to participate in these services as part of your preparation to celebrate Easter.

God bless,  
Pastor Kenn Ward



#### Maundy Thursday

7 pm at Messiah

#### Good Friday

7 pm at Messiah

#### Easter Vigil

7 pm Augustana Chapel

April 2009



**FROM OUT SYNOD  
BISHOP  
APRIL 2009**

I must be missing something. I look inward to find the “joy” this Lenten season and the anticipation of Easter Victory normally bring. The self-reflection and the devotion of this season are eluding me though. Sure, there’s the busy-ness of work. Benevolence giving is down, the budget has been down-sized once already. The economy is uncertain at best. Trouble to the left. Problems to the right. Issues dead centre. Whether within the Church or the society, there seems to be a real dearth of “joy”. (And enough bone-chilling cold and snow already!) I need a good shaking. “Martha, Martha – you are anxious and troubled about many things. One thing is needful...”(Luke 10:41)

The women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body for burial. The stone was rolled away. Two men inquired: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is risen. Do you not remember what he said?” Then the women remembered. Joy was reborn – resurrected. They hurried to tell the eleven and all the rest. Then Luke tells us, “But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.” (Luke 24:11)

Christ is risen! Risen indeed! An idle tale?... not to be believed? God forgive us for living through these days as if it were so. And God renew us with the Spirit of Jesus that can lift us out of our moods, funks, and seeming depression to see a much bigger picture with the living and reigning Lord – not issues – in the centre. May you find your way to the joy of the Empty Tomb this Easter!

Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories

**HYMN OF THE MONTH**

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Our Hymn of the Month for April is *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing* (531). It is also sometimes known as *The Feast Is Ready*.

The text and music were composed by

Graham Kendrick (born 1950). He began his song writing in the late sixties. His most enduring accomplishment is his authorship of *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, which is



among the most widely heard songs in contemporary Christian worship worldwide. His other songs have been primarily used by worshippers in Britain. He is a co-founder of the March for Jesus and received a Dove Award in 1995 for his international work.

**PASTORAL ACTS**

**Funerals**

Merril Stavne  
Reinhold Hohnsbein  
Gwen Sandstrom  
Cindy Foss

**Marriages**

Monica Hollos & Carlin Szott

**Baptisms**

Benjamin Agrey

**FUNDRAISER FOR CHAPEL**  
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**AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL**

St. Mary's Hospital is holding a Fund Raising Dinner in support of the Chapel Building Fund. This dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 6 pm at the Norsemen Inn. It will feature entertainment by the vocal group SWAK – bringing music from the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s – as well as a live and silent auction.

Tickets are \$70 each or \$560 for a table of eight; \$3 of each ticket sale is "tax receiptable" for those who wish a receipt.

All proceeds will go toward the construction of a Chapel at St. Mary's Hospital. Tickets are available from St. Mary's Hospital Public relations 780-679-6145, Pastoral Care 780-679-6110 or by calling 780-679-6145 for the name of a committee member from whom you can purchase tickets.

*The Choirs of Messiah present...*

*Melodious*

*Potpourri*

*Friday, May 1, 7 pm*

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL  
CROSS-CULTURAL SERVICE**

Speakers during World Mission Month represented several very different ways in which members of Messiah might respond to God's call to serve those who could benefit from the gifts and skills with which we have been blessed. Here are the contact addresses:

Wycliffe Bible Translators: [info@wycliffe.ca](mailto:info@wycliffe.ca)

Youth With a Mission (YWAM):  
[loren@ywamconnect.com](mailto:loren@ywamconnect.com)

Lutheran World Federation:  
[info@lutheranworld.org](mailto:info@lutheranworld.org)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief :  
[vim@elcic.ca](mailto:vim@elcic.ca)

**Messiah's Choristers**  
**present...**

**"Walk Worthly"**

**...a cantata for Easter**

**Sunday, April 12th**  
**at the 8:30 and 11:00 services**

April 2009

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION: WHAT IS IT?



In the upcoming months at Messiah you will be hearing the phrase "Stewardship of Creation." Stewardship of Creation is a new emphasis in the ELCIC which reminds us of something that as Christians is not so new. The Bible's concern for creation goes back to Genesis. Here we find several teachings which inform us about how we are to relate to the world around us, and to others.

The first of these is found in Genesis 1:4, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31 in the declaration that things that have been are good. Of these verses, verse 31 is the most striking and reads: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." Not all religions view the world, the physical things, or human bodies as good. Early Christianity stood in stark contrast to Gnosticism and other religions which understood that matter was evil. The fact that we understand creation as good, and hear God's striking declaration that what he has made is "very good" affects how we relate to our world, to others, and also to our very selves.

Before the fall (in Genesis 2) Adam and Eve are given three specific mandates or tasks. These are:

- a. The command to fill, subdue, the earth and have dominion (Genesis 1:28)
- b. The purpose that God intended in Genesis 2: 15, "The LORD God took

- b. The purpose that God intended in Genesis 2: 15, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it."
- c. To name the animals, as indicated in Genesis 2:19.

It is interesting to note that these mandates were given **before** the fall. That means that they have also been perverted by the fall, but nevertheless they still stand and can be seen in fallen humanity. We do, as humans, tame the world and make it habitable. We till and keep gardens. Think of the Butchart Gardens or the Devonian Gardens or even our own flower beds and how the beauty of these places glorifies God. The beauty of creation and of these places in no small measure reveals the nature of God (Romans 1:19-20).

Furthermore, humanity is preoccupied with finding, naming, and describing new species. No doubt we would and could do a better job fulfilling all of these mandates had we not succumbed to sin, not become turned in upon ourselves. The result has been that our dominion and subduing looks more like exploitation and destruction rather than taming and making habitable.

In reading Psalm 19 and Psalm 148 it is clear that the created heavenly bodies declare the praise of God, as do the created things on earth. This message is not new. But speaking this word in today's world involves reminding people to not obscure or destroy what glorifies God. Evil does that, and in Christ Jesus we have been set free to serve and praise God, to declare God's glory.

Submitted by  
Pastor David Eriksson

## **MESSIAH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **Special Council Meeting March 5, 2009**

Governance Task Force Recommendations:

The Church Council approved the proposed amendments to the Constitution to be brought to the Special Congregational Meeting, March 22, 2009, and to the Annual Meeting, June 7, 2009.

The Council approved in principle the proposed Bylaws to be brought to the Special Congregational Meeting, March 22, 2009.

The Council approved in principle the proposed Interpretive Handbook for Governance Matters to be brought to the Special Congregational Meeting, March 22, 2009, subject to editorial changes.

The Council deferred the following recommendations to the March Council Meeting:

- a) the scheduling of the Annual Planning Meeting
- b) the creation of a Governance Transition Group

The Council deferred the following

recommendations to the May Council Meeting:

- a) that the Council recommend the simultaneous repeal of the current Bylaws and adoption of proposed Bylaws at the Annual Meeting
- b) that the Council recommend the adoption of the Interpretive Handbook for Governance Matters at the Annual Meeting

### **Proposed Schedule for Governance Events**

- a) that a Forum be convened on Sunday, April 19, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of educating the membership on what is proposed, and to provide further opportunity for comments,
- b) that the Staff establish a time to present concerns and questions
- c) that the Governance Task Force be discharged on June 7, 2009 at the Annual Meeting

## **MARCH 19, 2009**

### **Annual Planning Meeting**

After discussion, a decision was made to set a date for the newly elected members to meet to make some basic decisions to begin the work of their committee or group. The Annual Planning

Meeting date set was June 11, 2009 from 6 PM to 9 PM. Immediately following the Annual Meeting held June 11, 2009, all elected members will meet in their groups for a short discussion to decide if they can meet as a group on June 11 or set an alternative Planning Meeting date before June 21.

### **Governance Transition Group**

The Council will create a Governance Transition Group to assist in the transition from the present form of governance to the proposed form. They will assist in the nominating process, organize the Annual Planning Meeting, propose mandates, assist Church Council in reviewing governance documents and organize itself in whatever manner is deemed the best way to assist in the reorganization of governance in Messiah. Some members will be contacted by the Executive to act on this group.

### **Finance**

Our expenditures continue to exceed our income. The primary focus of the April Council Meeting will be a critical discussion of the budget to assess the reasons of this lack of funds and what can be done to correct the imbalance.

### **Insurance Report**

The Property Committee will check further whether we should pay the bill for the water damage created by the overflow of the organ humidifier or should we submit a claim. The water damage bill at this time is \$3,000 and our deductible is \$2,500.

In checking the square footage of the present insurance, it was found that it was less than the blueprints contained. The insurance coverage was increased, Building to \$7,000,000 and contents to \$1,500,00. This coverage will cost \$10,071 for the year 2009.

Respectively Submitted  
Ioan Jobber (Council Secretary)

(Note: All material relating to Council Meetings are available in the rack at the back of the church)

April 2009

**TREASURER REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED JANUARY 31, 2009**

(with comparative figures for the third quarter ended January 31, 2008

	2009	2008
Regular offerings	\$317,526	\$321,579
Festivals offerings	27,028	21,307
Other revenue & expense recoveries	<u>9,148</u>	<u>8,328</u>
	353,702	351,214
Designated donations	<u>66,820</u>	<u>49,691</u>
Total received	<u>420,522</u>	<u>400,905</u>
Benevolences	47,997	47,726
Executive	28,027	22,758
Property	29,852	35,003
Salaries & benefits	251,530	239,438
Committees – other	<u>12,490</u>	<u>13,352</u>
	69,896	358,277
Designated expenditures & transfers	<u>66,820</u>	<u>49,691</u>
Total expenditures`	<u>436,716</u>	<u>407,968</u>
Current period shortfall	(16,194)	(7,063)
Prior years deficit	(42,991)	(19,561)
Capital debt/deficit appeal	37,343	12,073
Building debt retired this year	( 4,000)	-
Unfunded building fund repayments	<u>( 3,080)</u>	<u>(16,203)</u>
Accumulated deficit	<u>\$( 25,842)</u>	<u>\$( 30,754)</u>
Represented by:		
Bank overdraft	\$ ( 4,619)	\$ 8,196
Bank line of credit loan	0	0
Designated funds not funded (ie borrowed by operations)	(24,576)	(36,773)
Net accounts receivable (payable)	<u>273</u>	<u>( 2,177)</u>
	<u>\$( 28,922)</u>	<u>\$( 30,754)</u>

Ronald Berg, Treasurer

Comments: Many thanks for your support to nearly eliminate the prior year's deficit.

For the two most recent months of January and February, 2009, our support received has fallen short of our normal expenditures by \$13,334 and \$12,096 respectively. Your prayers and continued support are much appreciated.

## NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL FOR MESSIAH

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At the Special Congregational Meeting chaired by Dr. David Dahle on March 22, with 65 in attendance, Messiah took the first decisive step toward a new way of making decisions about its ministries.

Quoting from *the Final Report of the Governance Task Force*, Ray Blacklock said, "At each stage of the Task Force's actions, the members recalled that this work on governance is not an end in itself, but is to facilitate the accomplishment of Messiah's mission to Share Jesus Christ with all People. Whatever form of governance is followed, it is the work of the Holy Spirit through the determination and commitment of Messiah's members to be faithful followers of our Lord Jesus which will make a difference. Each and every member of Messiah has gifts and talents to offer so that Messiah's life both within the walls and in the world will bear fruit. The Task Force thanks the congregation for the privilege of being of service, and prays that its work brings Glory to God, and indeed contributes toward the development of the congregation."

Three Constitutional changes received overwhelming approval in their first reading at the meeting. On June 7 at the Annual Meeting, the second and final reading (with no opportunity at that time for amendment) will take place. If adopted, these changes will allow the congregation: 1) to elect five Standing Committees, instead of the current 12, and 2) have a Church Council in which the nine members will be elected directly by the congregation instead of the current system in which 12 of the 16 members were sent to the Church Council by the Standing Committees.

Because of these significant changes in the constitution, a whole new set of bylaws had been developed, and then presented to the Special

Meeting for consideration and approval in principle. A new *Governance Handbook* was also presented to the Meeting. Each of these documents was approved in principle. Changes may still be made in them between now and mid-May at which time a new version of each document will be prepared for consideration at the Annual Meeting on June 7. At that meeting, further amendments may still be made.

The decisions have five immediate implications:

On the assumption that the constitutional amendments will in fact be adopted in June, (1) The Nominating Committee will start now to acquaint potential candidates with the 39 opportunities for people to serve on Council and Committees (instead of current 76); (2) The Treasurer will develop a budget with reference to five committees instead of 12; (3) The Church Council is appointing a Governance Transition Group to assist the congregation in its transition from the current model to the new one. (4) Ministries currently being performed or supervised by the current 12 committees will be assisted to come under the new 5 committees in a timely and smooth manner; (5) Members and friends of the congregation who have further questions and/or suggested improvements in the Bylaws and Handbook should make these known to Ray Blacklock 780-672-7902 or [rnblack@cable-lynx.net](mailto:rnblack@cable-lynx.net) or through his mailbox, preferably in time for another forum which will be held on April 19 at 10:00 a.m.

*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 107.1)*

Submitted on behalf of the  
Governance Task Force  
by Ray Blacklock

April 2009

### WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

Many years ago, Messiah assisted with funds for the building of a hospital at Garoua Boulai, Cameroon. A doctor who served there was Dr. Paul Jacobsen, with his wife Rosemary. One of their children who was born at that hospital was Christine. Christine is now serving as a teacher under ELCIC's Volunteer in Mission program at a school in Niger. Dr. Jacobsen died

from cancer a few years ago.

Early in 2009, Christine's mother, Rosemary, visited in Niger. As part of that visit, Rosemary and daughter Christine



made a return trip to the location of Christine's birth, the hospital at Garoua Boulai in Cameroon.

For Christmas, 2008, Nora Gilbertson, on behalf of Messiah, sent Christine a Christmas card. Christine sent a written response back to Canada with her mother who then mailed it to Nora. The letter recalled the part which Messiah had played in the building of the hospital where she was born, and how that she had been able to make a return visit to that location.

Perhaps we could say that Christine's thankfulness for her birthplace is a symbol of the thousands who have benefited from Messiah's gift to the Lutheran Church in Cameroon for its hospital at Garoua Boulai.

Submitted by  
Ray Blacklock

### FROM THE LIBRARY



#### *IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES*

by Gracie Burnham

This is a gripping account of the kidnapping of American missionaries and their year in the Philippine jungle.

(In the Missions section)

#### *REACHING FOR THE INVISIBLE GOD*

By Philip Yancey

This book offers deep, satisfying insights that affirm and dignify the questions we're sometimes afraid to ask. Yancey asks the question "How do I relate to a God who is invisible when I'm never quite sure He's there?"

(In the inspirational section)

Maybe this will whet your appetite for more of Yancey's writing such as:

#### *WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW PRAYER*

Berniece Sogge

### ADULTFEST

Sun, April 5 - No Experience Necessary

Sun, April 26 - Akaloo

We want to try some new ideas to help with planning for next year. Please come & give us your feed back. We will also have a questionnaire at the end of each session.

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN

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### ELW Synod Board Meets At Messiah

On March 27 and 28, ten members of the Alberta and the Territories Synod ELW Board will be meeting at Messiah. The Agenda includes planning for the Synod ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Women) Convention to be held at Augustana May 22-24.

### 2009 Bible Study CORDS OF HOPE

The theme for the April study is "Hope Bursting From Open Tombs". We will examine the Resurrection, what it means for believers, how it affects us in times of despair, sadness and loss, and the potential for healing. The Biblical texts are 1 Peter 1:17-21, Habakkuk 3:16-19, and John 11:1-48. All women are welcome to join a circle Bible study.

### Funeral Coordinators

Marilyn Hoveland and Elaine Olson have accepted the positions of Funeral Coordinators. Thank you to Irene Moench and Betty Pearson for their years of faithful service.

### East Central Conference Convention April 25

The Spring Convention will be held at Amisk on April 25 with the theme "Cords Of Hope". Registration (\$5.00) with coffee begins at 9:30. Lunch will be provided for an additional \$5.00. Let's support the Amisk ELW with a good attendance from Messiah.

### Annual Praise Offering Service

On April 26 Grace and Love Circles will lead the Praise Offering Service at 8:30 and 11:00. The service will be based on the theme "I Have Called You By Name". The meditation and children's message were written by ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson. The offering supports the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). Envelopes will be provided. Joy Circle will host the coffee fellowship.

### CLWR Quilts and Kits

Bring your kits to the April Circle meetings. CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief) encourages us to put only the items requested into the kits -- no more and no less. CLWR also appreciates the donation of \$5.00 for each WE CARE bag or backpack used.

Packing date is April 20 at 9:00 a.m. Hi-Way 13 will again transport our donations to Edmonton and one of our members will express our thanks with the gift of a tasty treat.

### REMINDERS

Bible Study Briefing, April 2, 7:00 p.m. downstairs. Carol Roy still collects CAMPBELL soup labels to assist the Anglican women with their project for needy children.

"He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." Matt. 28:6a

"May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Submitted for the ELW  
By Lorene Pinno

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for all your support including members of Messiah who have been praying for me, visiting and encouraging me. A special word of thanks to Pastor David for his visits and thanks also to Pastor Kenn for the prayers at the services.

Shirley McIntosh

April 2009

## UPSWING SUBMERGE

On March 6th and 7th Elsy, Rohan and I along with Mrs. Sorenson and Mrs. MacInnis went to Upswing Submerge in Edmonton.

We started by getting our name tags and workshop tickets. Then we went to the gym where we had our K.I.M. (Kids In Ministry) kick-off. We sang worship and praise songs with Pastor Brad and the KIM band. Then all of the kids joined Pastor Jeff Harmon for the first session. The theme of this year's conference was "submerge".

In our first session we learned about the mask that scuba divers wear. Upswing's motto was "Go Deep"; if we want to go deep into God's word we have to be able to see. We have to put on the mask and explore God's word. After that session we had a half hour break, then we went to



our separate workshops. Some people, including Elsy, went to "Black light in puppetry", where they learned about black light and puppets. Rohan and I went to "Global 360 Missions" where we learned about evangelism, mission trips and new cultures. Then both groups came back together and we had our super fun dive-in game show! For the rest of the weekend there were two different teams; Green and Orange (last year it was just boys against girls). All three of us were picked for Team Orange. We played games that involved water-guns, chocolate, spam, toilet paper, balloons, "alpha-gette" and other silly and intense games. Green won the weekend 10 games to 9. That was it for Friday.

On Saturday morning we went right into our second workshop. There was a choice of "God Rods" or "Real Worship". Rohan and I chose "Real Worship". We got to sing fun songs and play

kazoos and stuff like that. Then we had a 45 minute break followed by the second session where we learned about the snorkel. We learned that the snorkel points up because God is up and we fully rely on God for breath. After lunch our last session was about the flippers; God helps us go deep, God is our flipper. What does the word GOD start with? GO.

For our last workshop, there was a choice of "Living Prayer" or "Discover your Spiritual Gifts". In the "Gifts" workshop we heard about nine gifts you can have. For example, "the shepherd", "the leader" or "the giver". I am the server!

Then the adults and the kids "reunited" in the main auditorium for the closing session where Craig Jutila spoke; he was hilarious. I suggest everyone come next year. It's for adults and kids Grades 4 to 8.

Thanks Marlys and Kathy for chaperoning us. We had a BLAST.

Colden Dru Palo

### THANK YOU FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A sincere thank you to Messiah Lutheran for your donation of copies of *With One Voice*. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely

President Bob Webster

# KIDFEST



A young college student had loaded up his arms and pockets with delicious looking apples off of a table in his cafeteria when he noticed a sign that read, "Only one apple each. God is watching." Having been brought up to honor and respect God, and

being a conscientious, decent young lad, he unloaded his bounty and walked away with his one allowed apple.

Walking out of the cafeteria and around the corner, he noticed another table laden with a freshly baked assortment of chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, gingerbread and sugar cookies. He eagerly took one to eat back in his room when he noticed a sign that read, "Feel free to take as many cookies as you want. God is busy watching the apples."

I laughed when I heard this at the recent Upswing Children's Conference I attended in Edmonton. I can't even remember in what context it was told. But it makes me thankful thinking about it now, that God is NOT so busy watching somewhere else that he can't also be mindful of me in my situations. In the cookie situation it might be nice, but really, I would rather have a God who can be everywhere at once. Otherwise would I be important enough to merit time from him? Would I have to book a time way in advance to spend time with him? Would he be busy on the other side of the world and not be available in Camrose until next year?

Thankfully, spending time with God is not like trying to book a KidFEST teacher's meeting with people that are gainfully busy in many other wonderful things too. Or trying to get together with friends for a meal or a visit. Or trying to fit in a number of jobs and still make time to go to Curves and phone my kids and wash the clothes and dishes and floors and read all the magazines that pile up. Or trying to book events that don't overlap with numerous other activities. These things are challenges for me!

But I am struck by the fact that I can get together with God ANYTIME! I don't even have to rebook if I miss a devotion time that I had planned on and got waylaid from. He is just there! The one I love the most is always there! Now that is something I need to think of more when I get discouraged trying to balance and sort out life! God can be with me and you and those in Mongolia and Hawaii and Norway and Minnesota and Okotoks... all at the same time! God IS watching and available and I am grateful.

### Coming up.....

- 1) April 5 - Palm Sunday- "Rez, the Rock that Rolled" GodRocks video during class, and palm waving at the 11:00 service
- 2) April 12 - No KidFEST due to Easter Sunday
- 3) April 17-18 - Kid's Kampout at the Khurch!! Theme - All Around Easter (parents invited for sessions from 8- 9:15 pm. and 9-10:15 am) Please hand in registration forms soon. Any help will be appreciated!

(Continued on page 13)

**April 2009**

(Continued from page 12)

4) April 19 - TalentFEST at 1:00 (after Soup and Sandwiches) This is not only for KidFEST but for everyone. Sign up in on the link bulletin board. This is a fun, casual hour of sharing in whatever way you are able!

5) April 26 and May 3 (afternoon times to be decided) - Devotional Scrapbooking - open to everyone. The theme will be LOVE (collect pictures about love, others, vacations and education or emotions.) Page layouts will be provided to make this a fun easy project. (4-6 pictures needed per letter per page - see bulletin board for samples) Devotions can be written to go along with each page theme.

6) July 27-30 - VBS - Theme - Rome and the Underground Church. We will be visited by Paul, and be able to learn a number of marketplace crafts, songs and games! Since July 30 is the day of the Camrose parade, would anyone be interested in helping us plan an entry for Messiah and KidFEST??? Perhaps we can have the VBS kids in the parade, dressed in Roman togas!

7) GodRocks live concerts during spring break - Mar. 31 6:30 pm Spruce Grove Alliance Church, Apr. 3 7:00 pm. Word of Life Church, Red Deer ([www.godrocks.ca](http://www.godrocks.ca)) For more info, call Marlys.

Blessings to those of you involved in "Love According to John" in Edmonton on the Easter weekend, and to those involved in the Music Festival also!

Looking forward to spring, and seeing you at these events!

Marlys Sorenson  
Children's Ministry Coordinator

## YOUTHFEST page 13

April Events

**Fri, April 3** - THE WATERSLIDE IS BACK! Let's go swimming! Please bring \$5 & meet at church, 6:30-9:00 pm

**Sun, April 5** - SUNDAY SPIRIT SURVIVOR (Gr.10-12), Brown Residence 3736-66St, 7 pm

**Thurs, April 9** - MAUNDY THURSDAY Service, 7 pm

**Fri, April 10** - GOOD FRIDAY Service, 7 pm

**Sat, April 11** - Join us for EASTER VIGIL at Augustana, 7 pm

**Sun, April 12** - Youth serve EASTER BREAKFAST, 9:30 am

**Fri, April 17** - MYSTERY NIGHT, 7 pm

**Fri, April 24** - CHOCOLATE EXTREME - Bring something for fondue! 7 pm



Melanie Millang  
Youth Ministry



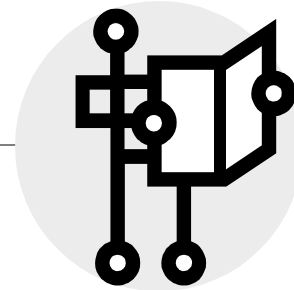
Messiah's FaithLife Chapter is pleased to announce that it has provided \$250 for our Youth programming to be used to support and encourage such outreach and witness ministries as Rock this House.

**STUDENTS AWAY FROM HOME**

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Pray for our students

- Lars Andreassen**—(Entomology) Grad Studies, U of MB
- Sven Andreassen**—(History, Philosophy) Augustana U of A
- Kayla Bentley** - (Science) University of Lethbridge
- Morgan Bentley** - (Science) University of Lethbridge
- Christine Benyon** - (Science) University of Alberta
- Braden Bergh** - (Criminology) Lethbridge College
- Sarah Carson** - (Nursing) Grant MacEwan
- Melissa Faucher** - (Social Work) Red Deer College
- Jen Lindstrand** - (Culture & Values in Education) Grad Studies, McGill
- Amy Overland** - (Nursing) Mount Royal College, Calgary, AB
- Stephen Rebus** - (Mechanical Engineering) University of Alberta
- Kelsey Rostad**—(Communications & Film Studies) U of C
- Cheryl Samm** - (International Devel.) St. Francis Xavier University, NS
- Jesse Sorenson** - Athabasca Correspondence Studies
- Kara Sorenson** - Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose
- Solveig Spielman** - (Music Therapy) Acadia University, NS
- Curtis Steinwandt** - (Music) Selkirk College, Nelson, BC
- Janelle Steinwandt** - (Hospitality & Tourism) SAIT, Calgary
- Larissa Storvik** - (Criminal Justice) Grant MacEwan, Edmonton



**Messiah Messenger**

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To request email delivery or to submit articles by email, write to [messiah@cable-lynx.net](mailto:messiah@cable-lynx.net)

Staff, committees and groups are encouraged to submit articles so that we are aware of who we are, what we are doing and where we may be going in our congregation.

**Next Issue**—May  
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DEVOTIONS FOR THE REST OF  
Us**

You can't judge a book by its cover,  
but you can judge a book by its  
Savior.

...all of you are one in Christ Jesus

- Galatians 3:28



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