



MESSIAH MESSENGER

July/August 2009 Volume 29, Issue 7

Our Summer Schedule



Sunday Service 10 a.m.

June 28 to August 30

Wednesday Coffee Fellowship

9:30 a.m.

**Ever Wednesday in July & August
except July 29**

Thursday Evening Bible Study

7:00 p.m.

July 2 to August 27

Church Office Hours

9 a.m. to noon

June 29 to August 28

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THEME - ROME AND THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH,

July 27-31

Mon., Tues., Wed.- 9:30-12:00,

Thurs. - 1:00-3:30

For ages 4-completion of Grade 6

Application forms available at the Church Office.

Suggested donation of \$5-10.



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CLERGY CORNER

It's been a hectic couple of weeks and I'm starting to find a summertime pace for myself, as I hope you are too. So rather than a regular column this time round, here are a couple of Gleanings that I hope will brighten your day.

Pastor Kenn Ward

I think that I shall never see
 A church that's all it ought to be;
 A church whose members never stray
 Beyond the straight and narrow way.
 A church that has no empty pews,
 Whose pastor never has the blues.
 A church whose deacons always "deak",
 And none are proud, and all are meek.
 Where gossips never peddle lies
 Or make complaints or criticize.
 Where all are always sweet and kind,
 And all to others' faults are blind.
 Such churches perfect there may be.
 But none of them are known to me.
 But still I'll work and pray and plan
 To make my own the best I can.

Anonymous

You know you are living in 2009 when –

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

From Ralph Milton's RUMORS, a free Internet 'e-zine' for Christians with a sense of humor." ... and please be sure to include these instructions to subscribe to RUMORS: To Subscribe:* Send an e-mail to: rumors-subscribe@joinhands.com

* Don't put anything else in that e-mail



FROM OUR SYNOD BISHOP

I sometimes fear that my recognition and appreciation of the goodness of creation is hampered if not crippled. As a case in point, my landscape photos of Lazy Lake, BC – which serve as wallpaper on my computer screen – cause me to reflect on creation's beauty in a way that I seldom, if ever, do when I am in my backyard.

I confess: my backyard is not a worship space; it is a work space. The lawn is not for enjoying – it is for mowing. The foliage of the trees and bushes are not for reflecting upon – they are for pruning. Even Dianne's potted flowers are not for admiring – they are for dead-heading. Why must we drive six hours before we hear nature sing? Perhaps it is because the mountain vistas require nothing of us – there is really nothing for us to do, except to lose ourselves in wonder, love and praise of the Creator Whose handiwork stops us in our tracks. My computer screen image is a sorry substitute for the real thing. I am living in the creation without recognizing that I am of it.

In his book *All Nature Sings* (Franciscan Press, Quincy University, 2002) former Lutheran bishop of Alberta J. Robert Jacobson notes that God's desire for us is that we truly live out the new kinship with all God's creation which was restored to us through the cross of Jesus Christ. If we had that perspective firmly fixed in us, not only would our life experience be richer, but our priorities in life might be rearranged in some major ways. "Creation bursts with promise. Wonders of creation are everywhere to be found. It is a paradise of beautiful things, beautiful creatures, beautiful people." (pp.383-386)

The sun is shining. Yet even when nature is singing, we don't do Sabbath Rest very well. Even when the pace of work lessens, and we can push away from our desks and monitors (and all the other accoutrements of modern work that hold us hostage), Sabbath Rest still eludes us. We believe the lie that we are what we do. Jacobson writes: "The value that the Lord derived from the First Sabbath Rest is precisely the value he desires for us... It is the value of a complete break from work, a pleasant regular interlude in our daily routines... We are simply to do it out of respect for the Creator. We are simply to trust that God knows what is best for us." (p. 395)

Take time this summer to re-connect with God's handiwork, near and far away. Try doing it without feeling guilty...

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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 18, 2009

What a great start for our new Church Council! We first took an opportunity to share some information about ourselves. Talk to Council members and find out who is traveling overseas this summer to Norway or Germany, who is bicycling from Jasper to Banff and who is staying closer to home to camp or work on home projects!

Council is arranging a special meeting with Pastor Kenn Ward and Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson to discuss their roles of ministry and other staffing concerns. Given the reality that Pastor Kenn will be retiring in 2011, Bishop Ron Mayan has advised that rather than call an Associate Pastor to replace Pastor David Eriksson, we consider beginning the call process for a new Senior Pastor, as it may turn out to be a lengthy process. We are grateful for the work of Pastor Kenn and Bev, and Council will be looking at options to maximize their gifts and time. Youth Ministry, following Maria and Melanie's departure, will also be looked at with the goal of having a plan in place for September start up.

Given that the LAMP mission trip could not be coordinated, Council endorsed the LITE youth mission team lead by Kathy MacInnis to do a VBS program this summer with Bethany Homes, Wetaskiwin and that they receive the Mission Endowment Fund interest as well as the money left over from the Soup and Sandwich program. It was noted that the other worthy project recommended by the World Mission Group, Solveig Spielman's mission trip to Kazakhstan, had already exceeded its fundraising goals! May God Bless both groups in their journeys!

The tea held Thursday afternoon, June 18, was a tremendous success and raised funds for the Good Samaritan Fund. We commend Mary Broen and Lavona Broen for their efforts in this initiative!

A representative from Ecclesiastical Insurance toured Messiah taking photos and measurements. A report of findings and recommendations will be sent to Messiah for review and action.

We still have the position of Vice President vacant, as well as requiring one more member for the Witnessing Committee and three more members for the Service Committee. Please prayerfully consider volunteering!

*Lori Mokry
Council Secretary*

Thank you!!

Thank you to each one of you for your many acts of kindness given me during my knee surgery experience! I appreciated your thoughtfulness, visits and gifts of love that came my way in various forms. You are all a blessing!

Sylvia Espe

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

LINK UP WITH COMMITTEES

Following their election to the Church Council at the Annual Meeting on June 7, the six Members at Large gathered on June 11 at the Annual Planning Meeting to decide which Member at Large would become the liaison person for which committee. In a discussion characterized by a consideration of members' interests and talents, and a desire to get the best fit, the following plan resulted:

Worship Committee: Art Pfeiffer
Learning Committee: Frank Hoehn
Witnessing Committee: Laverne Hoveland
Service Committee: Janet Nordstrom-Stollery
Support Committee: Carmen Person

Each of these people is not a member of the Committee, but is the liaison between the Committee and Church Council.

Other activities at the Planning Meeting included scriptural encouragement from Pastor Kenn, a "community building" exercise in which the Council and Committee members got to know each other better; and a presentation by former Congregational President Carolyn Andersen in which Carolyn encouraged Council and Committees to be diligent in their planning including the setting of goals and drawing up plans to achieve those goals.

Following the plenary session, the Council met by itself, and the Witnessing and Support Committees met on their own. These two committees chose their Chairpersons and Secretaries, and began the significant work of planning how to accomplish the responsibilities set out in the new bylaws.

The **Witnessing Committee** Chairperson is Iona Brager/Lorne Broen and the Secretary is Signe Harder
 The **Support Committee** Chairperson is Ivar Saugen and the Secretary is David Larson

The Learning and Worship Committees met on June 16 and 17 respectively at a time when their members were available. Providing leadership in these committees will be:

The **Learning Committee** Chairperson Lynn Thygesen and Secretary Mary Ellen Eriksson
 The **Worship Committee** Chairperson Charlene Brown and Secretary Cindy Bentley

The **Service Committee** will have its inaugural meeting at a time to be determined - three more members would allow this Committee to get on with its mandate.

Let us uphold our new Council and Committees in prayer as they give leadership to us under our mission of Sharing Jesus Christ with All People.

*Submitted by Ray Blacklock,
 Secretary of the Governance Transition Group*



KIDFEST KIDBITS

At the end of this KidFEST year, I want to pay tribute to our teachers and their families - Holms, Pontos, Gilchrists, MacInnis's, Trammers, Palos, Browns, Paynes, Haugens and my own family members. These families are amazing!

On Monday, June 22 we had many of them over to our home for a BBQ because I wanted to recognize them for their contributions to our KidFEST program and to many other things they do at Messiah. These families operate as a "team" and it delights me to see how they strive to grow in their faith together by learning and serving. In most cases it is only one of the family who is teaching, but I know the backup they get from the rest in order to carry on with this responsibility. Often it takes sacrifice and coordination from everyone in the family to make it happen. Many times it is because these teachers, and others in their family, are also serving, (on Sunday mornings especially), in numerous other ways! I admire the way they work together, knowing that they too struggle with frustrations, time constraints, priorities, family and school and work commitments. But I know that they put God first in their families and it makes a difference, and will have lasting effects. God bless all of you. You are treasures in the Kingdom! Thanks for Kingdom building among us.

We are saying goodbye to two of our "treasures" and we will surely miss them. Congratulations to Angela Ponto who will be married in August! She will be moving to Barrhead, and I know will find her place to serve there too. Charlene Brown is not moving but will be serving in other areas at Messiah, so we will still benefit from her leadership. Thanks so much to both of you!

We also bid good-bye to our Gr. 9 students who will be leaving us. You have been an inspiration to us and so faithful. Your class has been the biggest and the best attended. Remember, you are always welcome back!

Our trip to "Rome" is coming up fast!! **Vacation Bible School.....Paul and the Underground Church....July 27-31!!** Please book your flight soon by pre-registering at the church office. We are also hoping to have CD's of the music available at minimal cost. The CLBI team will be with us and will be doing a lot of the drama! We will also have marketplace crafts and snacks, and games from Roman times!

Needed for our 6 CLBI students 1) 3 homes for the week (Sunday through Thursday nights) 2) 6 supper meals, and 5 noon bag lunches If you could help with this, please contact Marlys as soon as possible!

Also, if anyone would be able to help set up for VBS the week before, and on Sunday, July 26, please let me know. It would be much appreciated.

Thanks for the donations of trees, plants, baskets, sheets etc. We can still accept more!

AND.....if you feel the calling to help out with VBS, we can still use your help!

Enjoy your summer break! Remember that wherever you go, God is there too. He wants you to spend time with him, whether in your private or family devotion time, or in worship on Sunday mornings someplace.

I remember as a child that we always prayed in the car as we started on a trip, and then sang, "Lead on, Oh King eternal.....thy tents shall be our home"! Usually we were going camping! (I'm not sure how the line, "we lift our battle song" fit in!)

If we don't connect in the summer, I look forward to seeing you all at our Fall FESTival when we kick-off KidFEST again on Sept. 13! (Classes begin Sept. 20)

Marlys Sorenson
Children's Ministry Coordinator



Camping season begins with Adult Week, June 28 – July 2
 Resource persons– Pastors Rolf Nosterud & Laverne Hoveland.
 (Note change) Weeks for all ages to follow. Check brochure or
www.HastingsLake.com for details.

RALLY WEEKEND

July 11 & 12

Come and enjoy this special weekend at camp

Friday: Come out any time after 7 pm to enjoy the weekend at
 the camp. No charge. Sorry, no meals provided
 Saturday, 7 pm: Talent night with featured local entertainers.
 If you'd like to share your talents, please e-mail
Roger@Osness.com or call 780-458-4746
 Saturday, 9:30 pm: Refreshments & Spoons Tournament
 Sunday, 10 am: Informal Service followed by Brunch
 Sunday, 2 pm: Service Speaker – Alvin Sorenson
 Music by **Potter's Clay Male Quartette**
 (Free-will Offering)
 Sunday, 4:30 pm: Supper at the camp

MISSION VISIT

We would like to invite anyone interested in Sandi (Broen) and
 Brad Miller's Mission work in Ecuador, to our home (3222-62A St.
 Camrose on July 15th.,

They will give a short presentation over coffee from 3 p.m. to 4:30
 p.m. Should you prefer they will repeat their presentation from 7
 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Family and friends will be gathering here that day
 and we want anyone interested to join us. You are welcome.
Ordean and Lavona Broen

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Ainsley Campbell, Chevy Masson, Christian Lomax

CONFIRMATION

Leah Thygesen

NEW MEMBERS

Amber Campbell, Leroy & Esther Forre, Lynn Thygesen,
 Rhonda Thygesen

MARRIAGE

Miranda Croteau & John Friedrichs

FUNERAL

Leatha Knudtson, Linda Storvik, Leroy Ramsey, Doris Olson



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN

PRAYER REQUESTS

A Nominating Committee was elected at the May General Meeting to recruit nominees for 2010 vacant ELW Executive positions. Members of the Committee are Iona Brager, Irene Moench and Frieda Ness. Positions vacant are: Secretary, Treasurer, Program Coordinator for CLWR Projects and Program Coordinator for ELW Special Projects. Please pray for the Nominating Committee and consider prayerfully your response to their request.

Our national church body, THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA meets in convention June 25-28 in Vancouver. Let us keep the leaders, delegates, including Messiah's David Dahle in our prayers.

EXITS GOING GREEN

At the May General Meeting, the ELW voted to give \$1000. to the congregation for the purchase and installation of energy efficient exit lights. A well-known environmentalist has calculated that the installation of these lights may reduce the electrical bill by approximately \$1100. per year.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE GIFTS

During the summer months, you may continue to give CAMPBELL soup labels to Carol Roy or place them in her mailbox. The Anglican Women use these labels to purchase school supplies for needy children. Those excellent Lutheran cookbooks are available in the office to purchase as a shower gift.

A TASTE OF CAMP

On June 29, ELW members, spouses and friends, who have pre-registered, will journey to Hasting Lake Lutheran Bible Camp for an evening of good food, inspiration and fellowship. We will meet AT 4:15 in front of Messiah to arrange rides and depart at 4:30 for the camp. Supper will be served at 5:30. A donation is appreciated. Each circle is asked to bring an ice cream pail of cookies for summer campers to enjoy. Cookies are welcome throughout the camping season. You may leave clearly labelled pails of cookies in the Fellowship Kitchen where they will be picked up and delivered to the Camp. After supper there will be a service in the chapel followed by a snack. There will be no Grace Gift offering.

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

The ELW Summer General Meeting will be held on July 27 from 2:00 - 4:00 at the historic Wilhelmina Church. Each circle is to arrange transportation for its members. Watch for posters and a map in mid-July.

Grace Gifts offerings will be collected. Keep in mind that this is our only Grace Gifts offering during the three summer months. Bring a plate, cup and fork/spoon just as we did "in the days of old".

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If you wish to sit outdoors, bring a chair. If the weather is not suitable to make this trip, we will meet at Hillside in the main floor common room. Circle leaders will be notified of this change and will be requested to inform their members. It will not be necessary to bring chairs or plates, cups and cutlery.

A CALL TO SERVE—FUNERAL LUNCH MINISTRY

In Galatians 6:2 we are admonished to bear one another's burdens. Messiah ELW has responded to these words through its Funeral Lunch Ministry. Two coordinators organize the scheduling for serving at funerals. There are six groups of women and men, each headed by a convener, who prepare and serve the funeral lunches. As the years pass, members of these groups retire due to advancing age, deteriorating health and other circumstances. We need volunteers to step forward and take their places.

Assistance is needed to prepare buns or sandwiches, to bake goodies, to serve the families and guests and to clean up. Men have a specific talent to share - handling loaded dishwasher trays. Usually, each group serves two or three funerals per year. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to share hospitality and support with those who are grieving the death of a loved one.

If you wish to help, call Marilyn Hoveland at 780-672-6358 or Elaine Olson at 780-855-2379 as soon as possible.

Thank you to our many Messiah friends for the sympathy cards, food, hugs and concern following the death of Norma's mother, Catherine McCoomb. Your support was greatly appreciated.

Ray and Norma Blacklock

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 7, 2009

We thank God for the blessings bestowed upon us this past year! God's Word has been proclaimed weekly in two services each Sunday, except for the summer break of one service.

We appreciate the work done by many volunteers who have worked diligently within Messiah and the community.

Although our membership has declined, our income for the year was almost equal to the donations received when we were a larger congregation. This is due to the generosity of our present Messiah's members. **Thank you for supporting Messiah!**

Due to the diligent work of Committee Members, progress has been made in many areas. Our biggest project, Governance, has come to a successful conclusion. **We anticipate an exciting and challenging year!**

Governance:

Three Constitutional amendments made the terminology more general so that with later changes in the Bylaws, the Constitution will not need to be further amended. The previous Bylaws have been revoked and new Bylaws have been approved.

Changes were made to lessen the administrative duties of the Senior Pastor and so increase his pastoral ministry in Messiah. In the area of staff, he will have less responsibility in hiring or dismissing staff. If we hire an Administrative Coordinator, in the future, more of the Senior Pastor's time will be available for pastoral ministry.

To assist in the transition, a Governance Transition Group has been appointed. The members are: David Dahle (chair), Wilf Aspenes, Ron Foshaug and Ray Blacklock (secretary).

World Mission Group:

The youth summer mission trip to Northern Canada, under the sponsorship of LAMP, was cancelled. LAMP is only accepting family groups and scheduling didn't work out. Therefore, our youth group, led by Kathy MacInnis, is considering conducting an alternate VBS session at a new church in Hobbema.

Youth Ministry Team:

Thanks to Marie and Melanie Millang for their successful leadership of our youth the past few years.

Election of Officers:

Vice President—no volunteer yet

Secretary—Lori Mokry

Members at large—Frank Hoehn, Laverne Hoveland, Janet Nordstrom-Stollery, Carmen Person, Art Pfeiffer

For a list of the full slate of the Committee members, check the Annual Meeting booklet on page 22.

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Synod Convention May 27-30, 2010

A Special Congregational Meeting will be called to elect delegates.

Mission Endowment Fund Interest:

This interest has been allocated to Messiah youth for approved Mission Trips planned for the summer of 2009. Presently Kathy MacInnis' youth group and Solveig Spielman are planning summer Mission trips. The Council will finalize plans at next meeting.

Financial Matters:

A number of motions were passed to authorize signators of cheques and charitable donations, as well as authorize signators for borrowing powers and also designate the auditors.

We thank the firm of Tien Rostad for auditing our books!

Financial Report and Budget:

Because the Council was unable to present a balanced budget, an Interim Budget of \$494,194 was presented to the Annual Meeting. Further trimming was made and the Interim Budget was amended to \$475,491.

The new Council was instructed to review Messiah's finances and bring recommendation for a revised, balanced budget to a Special Congregation Meeting, November 22, 2009.

Thanks to all attending the Annual Meeting and to those who have completed their term of office.

*Submitted by Ioan Jober
Council Secretary*

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Sharing Jesus Christ with all people.
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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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To request email delivery or to submit articles by email,
write to messiah@cable-lynx.net

Members, 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— July / August
Material due— June 16
Delivery date— June 26

JULY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Canada Day Office Closed 8:00 Morning Prayer	2 7:00 Bible Study	3 5:00 Bartman/Sanders Wedding Rehearsal	4 1:00 Bartman/Sanders Wedding
5 Pentecost 5 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	6	7	8 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	9 7:00 Bible Study	10	11
12 Pentecost 6 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	13	14	15 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	16 5:00 Porter/Nesvold Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 Bible Study	17 1:00 Porter/Nesvold Wedding	18
19 Pentecost 7 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	20	21	22 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	23 7:00 Bible Study	24	25 2:00 Faucher/McDonald Wedding
26 Pentecost 8 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	27 9:30 Vacation Bible School	28 9:30 Vacation Bible School	29 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Vacation Bible School	30 1:00 Vacation Bible School 7:00 Bible Study	31 9:30 Vacation Bible School	

AUGUST 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Pentecost 9 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	3	4	5 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	6 7:00 Bible Study	7 5:00 Ponto/Boelman Wedding Rehearsal	8 1:00 Ponto/Boelman Wedding 3:00 Rubuliak/Nagy Wedding
9 Pentecost 10 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	10	11	12 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	13 7:00 Bible Study	14 5:00 Bernes/Hodges Wedding Rehearsal	15 1:00 Bernes/Hodges Wedding 3:00 Pandachuck/ Cinz-Mars Wedding
16 Pentecost 11 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	17	18 Messenger Articles Due	19 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	20 7:00 Bible Study	21 5:00 Gibson/Schultz Wedding Rehearsal	22 3:00 Gibson/Schultz Wedding
23 Pentecost 12 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	24	25	26 8:00 Morning Prayer 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Big Drum	27 7:00 Bible Study	28 Messenger Delivery	29
30 Pentecost 13 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	31					