



MESSIAH MESSENGER

December 2009 Volume 29, Issue 11



Give the Gift Back

Sunday December 13 11 am

*Featuring the Choirs of Messiah,
Handbells, Big Drum and KidFEST*

CHRISTMASFEST SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13



9:00 am Advent Carols & Communion	Sanctuary
9:45 am Coffee Fellowship	Fellowship Centre
10:00 am Friendship Club Pageant	Basement Auditorium
11:00 am Give the Gift Back	Sanctuary
12:30 pm Soup and Sandwiches	Fellowship Centre

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THREE GIFTS FOR JESUS

When the magi saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:10-11)

This Christmas as you consider what offerings you will bring, please consider giving three gifts for Jesus.

GOLD (OUR REGULAR OFFERING)

At the Special Congregational Meeting on November 22, we decided, in principle, to tithe our regular offerings so that the first 10% of what we receive will be shared with the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to further the mission that our synod and our national church do on our behalf.

Consider the portion of your income that you share for furthering Messiah's mission. We encourage each other to work toward a tithe or beyond. To help us to give our offering in a regular, disciplined way a growing number of us have arranged to give through direct deposits made from our bank accounts. (This can be done through Sheila Becker, our Bookkeeper.)

Did you know that Ancient Persians exported the gold to kings and emperors in Asia and the Middle East?

FRANKINCENSE (OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING)

Each year at Christmas, we give a special Christmas offering to ensure support for the many ministries of Messiah. This year we are hoping to receive at least \$20,000. Please use a special Christmas offering envelope or make a note on a regular offering envelope if you are making this gift.

Did you know that in Jesus' time, incense was used for religious and government ceremonies?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

MYRRH (SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT)

Because our current budget did not make provision for a tithe to our synod and our national church, the Special Congregational Meeting created two Support Funds to try to top up our giving to achieve the desired outcome.

We are seeking an additional \$5,500 beyond regular offerings through a Missionary Support Fund so that we can top up our support for Brian Rude's ministry in El Salvador to a total of \$20,500.

We are seeking an additional \$11,800 beyond regular offerings through a Benevolence Support Fund so that we can top up our support for the ministries of our synod and our national church to a total of \$42,300.

When you contribute to either of these funds, please use one of the pew envelopes and write the amount and the fund to which you are contributing on that envelope

Did you know that myrrh was used in making a salve for sores and wounds, as well as in making perfume and incense? It is still used today in mouthwashes, toothpaste and make-up.



**COMMUNITY CAROL SING
TO SHOW THAT CAMROSE CARES**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 3:00 PM

Pastor Kenn has invited everyone in Camrose to join in singing carols on the grounds of the various facilities for seniors and of St. Mary's Hospital.

Messiah members are invited to join him at the parking lot of Bethany Meadows. We'll walk around the buildings and sing carols for about a half an hour. He's hoping that there will be enough people to form a ring completely around Bethany Meadows.



CLERGY CORNER

At this time every year I wait for the transformation that comes with the snow. As a child I loved winter. I eagerly awaited that first skate and the first rush down the toboggan hill. Then, there was the trimming of the trees, both inside the

house and out in the yard ...what joy when the lights were turned on for the first time. There were always plenty of smiles and ohhs and ahhs as Dad would flick the switch and bathe our world in colour. At such times, troubles were forgotten, differences ignored, and hope for a better tomorrow lived in our hearts.

Today as I look out on my front yard there is very little colour in my world. The leaves have fallen, been raked, and put in bags for collection. There is no snow to be seen anywhere. Oh, for a brief time we had some snow. But now it's gone. For now, my world is rather dull, colourless, and lifeless. But before we know it we'll hear the familiar Christmas tunes.

For many people, this is a time of anticipation. Some anticipate opening presents on Christmas morning. For others it is the giving of gifts. For yet others, it is the gathering of family around the table for dinner. For our military families it is the anticipation of seeing our loved ones again either at home or via web cams.

But not everyone has someone to share Christmas. Not everyone will get a present. Not everyone will eat. But everyone nurses a hope (however small) for a better tomorrow. Everyone seeks life, acceptance, forgiveness, and unconditional love. It is these gifts which our Lord Jesus Christ gave us through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection. We no longer have to wait, for God sent his only Son that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The One who was, who is and who is to come is our hope; a hope which is based on nothing less than God's Word and promise to all who believe. We live in a now and not yet time—a time of anticipation. Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. We have God's promise about that. Because of God's unconditional love for all people, everyone is welcome at his table. All who believe in Christ as their Lord and Saviour have forgiveness and salvation.

So we joyfully wait, secure in the knowledge that God loves us and has not forsaken us. Not one of us has been forgotten. As we eagerly wait to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior let us share our table, our lives, our gifts, and our faith with everyone. In so doing, we, too, can transform the world around us with light, with hope, with Jesus.

It takes millions of snowflakes to transform our world; to cover the dirt and to colour our world white. It only took the birth of one tiny child, Jesus Christ, God's only Son, to transform our hearts, to cover our sins, to clothe us in his white garments of righteousness, and to give us new life forever in him. Thanks be to God!

May the God of snowflakes and unconditional love transform your world, your lives, and give you his peace now and forever.

Pastor Judy Jarvis



FROM OUR SYNOD BISHOP

I read an article this morning entitled *What Hope for Advent?* As you might guess, the author decries the annual phenomenon of the four Advent weeks being steam-rolled by a seemingly ever-expanding Christmas.

A kiosk manager in our local mall last year made a telling comment. I asked her on what day she opened her seasonal kiosk. Without missing a beat, she made this swift response: “Oh, Christmas started on November 12th.” Indeed.

What hope is there for the four weeks of Advent and their call to us to prepare the way of the Lord – to make straight the Lord’s path? Some suggest lengthening the Advent season so that it gets the attention and the spiritual focus of God’s people that it deserves.

Even our congregations rush to the manger with Sunday School Christmas programs and pageants, the singing of the beloved Christmas carols, and the many Christmas adornments – all making their appearance in the early days of Advent.

Did you know that Advent used to be called “a little Lent”? It was a penitential season: reflective, inward-looking, repentant – anticipating the coming of Jesus the Christ in glory at the close of the age. The Advent wreath is too easily displaced among us.

The challenge is in keeping a short and serious season in the midst of the commercial hype around us. There is the challenge of bringing the Word (in Advent, a word of warning, of consequence, of end-times) to a culture in which the Christmas euphoria is coming at us from all sides.

Here’s a suggestion: let us make and keep Advent, and THEN, let us make and keep Christmas. It’s worth a try. I wish you a meaningful Advent and a joy-filled Christmas!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

Nicholes Doig
Bernie Williams

Wedding

Angela Faas & Chris McNeil

Funerals

Esther Johnson
Gwen Campbell
Ryan Henderson

Committal

Helene Fjordbotten

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—NOVEMBER 19, 2009

The November meeting of Messiah Church Council dealt with a very full agenda and generated some excellent discussion. Following is a brief summary of the items discussed.

Council approved **Ray Blacklock** as a delegate to the **Conference Convention** in Wainwright to be held on November 21, 2009. Thank you for representing our congregation.

One of the recommendations being presented at the **Special Congregational Meeting** on November 22, 2009, is the formation of a **call committee** with the goal of having a new Senior Pastor in place by June 1, 2011. Council nominated four members of Messiah, with further nominations being accepted from the floor at the congregational meeting. The committee is to consist of 5 to 7 people.

The second recommendation involves the presentation of a **balanced budget** for the fiscal year May 2009 to April 2010. Council gratefully acknowledges the tremendous effort put forth by our Treasurer, Ron Berg, and the five Committees to develop this budget. While Council is recommending the adoption of the Revised Essential Budget, it also recognized that total Benevolence being calculated as 10% of total revenue was significantly impacting the funds sent to the Synod and National Church, as well as Reverend Brian Rude's missionary work. Therefore, Council is recommending the formation of two special designated funds to receive second-mile donations to further support the Synod and National Church, and Reverend Brian Rude's missionary work.

On October 29, 2009, Messiah's Council met with our neighbours from the **United Church Council** for discussion and sharing. Another meeting is being planned in early 2010, to build on ideas developed that reflect our common desire to strengthen Christian community.

Treasurer Ron Berg reported that with six months of the current fiscal year already behind us **we are maintaining the levels of revenue and expense necessary to meet the balanced Revised Essential Budget being proposed.** He also circulated copies of the **Auditors' Report** for the year ended April 30, 2009. Thank you to the firm of Tien Rostad LLP for completing the audit.

Council reviewed the **staff job descriptions** that were updated to reflect the new governance structure. Work continues at the Committee level to identify other changes required to the Governance Manual.

With great thanksgiving, Council acknowledged the receipt of a **special gift** of funds from Adele Jensen. A portion will be used to upgrade our equipment for the TV ministry so we can continue to share Jesus Christ, through our Cable 10 outreach, in a consistent and high quality manner.

Note that beginning in January of 2010, to better accommodate members' schedules, **Church Council will now meet on the 4th Thursday of the month.** Would this fit your schedule? We are still actively searching for a Vice-President of the congregation and hope someone will feel called to fill this role. Contact President David Dahle regarding this or to volunteer for one of the Committees that still need an additional member.

*Lori Mokry
Council Secretary*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, November 22, 2009, 70 voting members of Messiah Lutheran Church gathered in the Fellowship Center for a Special Congregational Meeting.

The first item of business **established a Call Committee**, of 5 to 7 members, to act on the goal of having a Senior Pastor in place by June 1, 2011. How encouraging to have 7 additional nominations come from the floor to add to the 4 nominations made by Church Council! Thank you to all the members who were willing to be a part of this very important Call Committee. Having 11 candidates necessitated an election for the 7 positions. Thank you to Pastor Kenn Ward for quickly preparing a ballot! Once the vote was tallied, 7 people had received a majority of the votes and the following were declared elected: **Herb Andersen, Jayla Brewer, Rosanna Hohm, Agnes Hoveland, Laverne Hoveland, Odell Olson and Gail Stolee.**

Treasurer Ron Berg introduced the second item by giving an overview of **the revised essential budget** that the congregation was considering for approval. This is the first budget that reflects our new governance structure and Ron, along with the five new Standing Committees – Learning, Service, Support, Witnessing and Worship, are to be commended for all of the hard work and time that went into reaching this proposal. Financial concerns are a reality for many given the current economic conditions, and our congregation is no exception, and unfortunately our last two fiscal years have produced deficits which are still being carried forward. These financial concerns flow through to the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, as well, and they are being forced to make some tough decisions at the same time as our congregation. We at Messiah can praise the Lord that, although we have experienced a decline in attendance, our offerings have not declined in proportion. We have fewer members giving more – thanks be to God! It was noted that the original requested budget decreases in funding were achieved through cuts in benevolence, program expenses, and salaries and benefits.

The congregation voted to accept this revised essential budget and also **voted to establish two special designated funds for this fiscal year.** This is to address the significant decrease in benevolence funds going to the Synod/National Church and Reverend Brian Rude's missionary work, due to keeping total benevolence to 10% of total revenue in this revised essential budget. Please prayerfully consider supporting the two new designated funds and indicate on your offering envelope your directive.

The Missionary Support Fund for Rev. Brian Rude's ministry would need \$5,500 in funds to meet what was the originally requested budget.

The Benevolence Support Fund for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the National Church would need \$11,800 in funds to meet what was the originally requested budget.

Looking ahead to the next fiscal year, the congregation passed a motion that a tithe of all undesignated offerings be directed to the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the ELCIC. As we have just completed the budget for the current fiscal year, we can now look forward to starting work on the 2010 – 2011 budget in the New Year and working through the challenges it will present.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lori Mokry, Council Secretary*

ELW HIGHLIGHTS



With gratitude in our hearts for God's abundant blessings, the ELW provided another opportunity to share those blessings during its annual **Thanksgiving Service** on October 18th. The offering of \$2,561 will be divided between the ELW national project to assist women in Chamanculo, Mozambique and the Camrose Food Bank. Reflecting on this offering, these words from the hymn *Praise and Thanksgiving* came to mind:

*Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 689
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With the November **Bible study**, ELW circles have completed the 2009 topical study *Cords of Hope*. Under the guidance of Pastor David Kaiser, we considered a variety of those Cords of Hope: new beginnings; discovered in love; in springtime; bursting from open tombs; in rest and relaxation; found and learned in family; strengthened through learning; thanksgiving for the gift of hope; and, singing songs of hope in new places. All women are invited to join the 2010 study *The Word Made Flesh*.

On November 30, **quilts and kits will be packed** for shipment to CLWR in Winnipeg. This shipment will also include gifts from the women of St. Joseph congregation (Armena parish). A separate shipment will be taken to LAMP Edmonton. Each circle is asked to provide one assistant for packing. Thank you to everyone who participates in assembling these gifts and to Hiway 13 for transporting them to Edmonton.

Suggested gifts for others include: Lutheran cookbooks available in the office for \$15.; Campbell soup labels to assist the Anglican women in gathering school supplies for needy children, collected by Carol Roy; and, used postage stamps cut with a 1/4" border for the Canadian Bible Society, a labelled collection box is at the Information Centre.

The ELW Christmas celebration will be held on December 14 at 7:30 p.m downstairs. Reminders: each circle is requested to decorate one table; refreshment bowl offering will be given to the Camrose Merry Christmas Fund; and 2009 prayer sisters will be revealed, 2010 prayer sisters will be selected.

The season of Advent begins on November 29th. During 2009 our Bible study focused on various aspects of hope which is also beautifully expressed in many of the hymns and readings in Advent.

*All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set everybody free.*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 689
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Each year our ELW women make quilts and prepare We Care Bags for CLWR. Where do our quilts and bags go?

SHIPMENT TO MALAWI LEAVES WINNIPEG

Canadian Lutheran World Relief's (CLWR) third overseas commodity shipment of 2009-10 left Winnipeg on September 28 destined for Lilongwe, Malawi. CLWR staff, Patrick Stewart and Cody Cleave, along with one other assistant, took about six hours to load a 40-foot container with 440 bales and boxes of donated goods.

The shipment included 3,934 quilts, 1,569 blankets, 2,263 layettes and 3,611 We Care kits as well as a small quantity of medical supplies provided by Winnipeg-based International Hope Canada. In total, it weighed in at just over 13,000 kilograms.

Malawi is a landlocked country located in East Africa between Zambia and Mozambique. With a population of almost 14 million living in an area equivalent in size to the combined area of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it is among the world's most densely populated and least developed countries.

Submitted by Lorene Pinno

WORLD MISSION MONTH PREVIEW

MISSION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Sunday evening, January 10, 7:00 pm

Richard Near, talks about his personal mission in western Pacific

MISSION IN MEXICO

Sunday morning, January 17, 9:45 am

Friends from Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Viking, talk about their mission in Mexico

MISSION IN MONGOLIA

Sunday evening, January 24, 7:00 pm

Johnny and Marina Aicken talk about the World Mission Prayer League & CLBI mission in Mongolia

MISSION IN COLOMBIA

Sunday morning, January 31, 9:45 am

Trish Hoepfner and colleagues from Ascension, Edmonton, talk about their mission in Colombia

All programs in the Basement Auditorium. Refreshments at each event. Everybody Welcome!!



KIDFEST KIDBITS

Our Christmas program **Give the Gift Back** will again be a joint presentation by KidFEST, Big Drum, handbells and choirs on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 11:00 am. There will be a service at 9:00, then Coffee and Fellowship and a Christmas Pageant by the Friendship Club. After the program there will be "Soup and Sandwiches" and special Christmas goodies!

Practices for our part in the play will be during class time on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, plus Dress Rehearsal on Sat. Dec. 12, 9:30-12:00 (with the choirs). The speaking parts are being played by students in the Gr. 7-10 class. The other classes will have roles as part of a Christmas pageant. All of this will be explained when we begin practices.

Nov. 29 is also special in that we will celebrate Baptism birthdays and the 1st Sunday in Advent before we begin our rehearsal.

Make your own Manger Scene - Sunday, Dec. 6. Bring a bag lunch and then stay to create a simple manger scene with your family (about 1:00 pm). Please bring scissors that will cut cloth.

Christmas break - no classes Dec. 20 or 27, or Jan. 3. Classes resume Jan. 10, 2010!

Don't forget to check out your **Akaloo website** for information about Messiah's KidFEST activities, and for Akaloo games and activities! I have been able to take each class (except Age 3, and Grade 7-10) for some time on the computer during class time to show what is available! We have just finished our Akaloo unit, *Experiencing God*.

I will begin the New Year in Honolulu, Hawaii, before heading to the Big Island (Kona) to work as a Mission Builder again! There are eight of us from Messiah working there at different times from Nov. until Feb. I will be there with three others! I have created a blog for us which is up and running. You can check it out now and we will continue to add to it with stories and pictures.
<http://messiahhawaii.blogspot.com>

Please keep us all in your prayers.

Thanks for having a hand in Messiah's mission! You all contribute in your own way and are a blessing to others. God be with you as you begin your Advent journey to Christmas. Your hands will reach out in many ways during this special season.

Marlys Sorenson
 Children's Ministry Coordinator



YOUTHFEST

December 4th: 7-9:30 - **at Bethel - Joint Event - "Christmas Presence"**. We'll be joining with Bethel to help out the cause started a couple of years ago by Augustana student Carmelle Mohr (who has family connections with members from Bethel).

On Christmas Day, she takes several other people with her to the East Hastings area of Vancouver and they hand out items to homeless people: baking, cards, toiletries, underwear, jewelry, chocolate bars, socks, etc. in order to be present for people who otherwise would not have Christmas.

We're asking each youth to donate \$10 to help support this cause. As part of the evening, Augustana Chaplaincy will come to tell the youth about the program and then, we'll be shopping together for items to send with Carmelle to Vancouver.

- NO YOUTH Program on December 6 & December 11.
- December 18th - 7-9pm - **at Bethel - Joint Prayer Service**. We'll be exploring different ways to pray and connect with God.
- December 19th - **Trip to Mustard Seed**. Meet at 5:50pm at Bethel. Cars leave at 6pm. Please sign up if interested. I've called around, so most people know what this is about, but if there are any people who don't, let me know.
- December 20th - 7-9 **at Messiah - Sunday Spirit**
- We'll restart Youth Group on January 8th.

*Dorina Brown
Youth Worker*

MESSIAH MEMBERS ON THE WEB

Here are two Online Addresses/Websites/Blogs that feature Messiah members and might interest you.

CELEBRATIONS

- an Alberta Synod online magazine. The Nov. 2009 issue has stories and pictures about our Messiah Miquelon Camp-Out, Thanksgiving at Hastings Lake, and Judy Jarvis joining us, plus many other stories of interest! You can check it out online at <http://www.albertasynod.ca/publications/celebrations> or see the printed copies on the Children's Ministry bulletin board.

KONA KONNECTIONS - MESSIAH YWAM MISSION BUILDERS

- a new blog created to keep friends and family back home connected with what Messiah members are doing in Kona, Hawaii as Mission Builder volunteers at the University of the Nations, Youth With a Mission. Messiah members who are volunteering are Lavona and Ordean Broen (Nov. 20 - Jan. 4), Ben and Herta Heise (Dec. 4 - Jan. 15), Adrian and Joyce Bergquist, Vivianne Grue and Marlys Sorenson (Jan. 1 - Feb. 12). They hope to post stories and pictures of their work while they are there. The blog address is <http://messiahhawaii.blogspot.com> If you are interested, please check it out! There are already a few pictures on there.



FROM OUR NATIONAL BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ,

In February of this year, officers of the National Church and all five synods of the ELCIC met to discuss the current financial challenges facing our church. Their environmental scan of the last 20 years reviewed the following:

- Total church baptized membership is down 23%. Despite this, offerings to congregations continue to grow, keeping up with inflation;
- Benevolence dollars passed on to synods from congregations have remained the same and are now starting to drop. With inflation factored in, synods are trying to maintain ministries with less purchasing power; and
- Benevolence dollars passed on from synods to the National Church have decreased. With inflation, this means the National Office is operating with about one-third the purchasing power it had in 1986.

These challenges will only become more severe in the next few years. The officers agreed on the need for major changes to the church's organizational structure while also increasing efforts in the areas of evangelism, outreach and stewardship as we live out our call to be a church *In Mission for Others*.

National Church Council (NCC) heard these concerns and appointed a Structural Renewal Task Force with the mandate to develop a structural framework for our church which is flexible, affordable and sustainable, and equips us to be a church *In Mission for Others*.

The Task Force has begun its work which will involve a consultative process of presentations and discussions at 2010 synod conventions, online surveys, and dialogue with partners and others, to ensure as many conversations as possible are generated across the church. This will eventually lead to a detailed proposal presented at 2011 National Convention.

How can you help?

1. **Pray for our church and Task Force.** May God guide us to a new model of being church, equipping us to live out our vision of a church *In Mission for Others*.
2. **Participate in the process.** Listen to presentations and provide your feedback.
3. **Share this message with others.** Engage in dialogue with friends, family and other members of your community.

Thank you so much for your partnership in mission and ministry, and for your support of this important work.

Yours in Christ,
 The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
 National Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

THE GENIUS OF PIETISM AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY



You may not recognize the man in this picture. His name is Hans Nielsen Hauge. He has influenced your life even though you may not be aware of it. He is one of a group of people called Pietists who have had a strong influence in shaping Messiah and many other Lutheran institutions in Camrose and beyond.

Even though pietism has some very positive things to contribute to our faith, for some of our members the term Haugian Pietism stirs up troubling feelings and memories. I've helped to develop this series because I wanted to help to heal those memories and hear them shared with another generation before they are lost.

As one raised among eastern Canadian Lutherans of German descent, what little I knew of pietism was that it was somehow Scandinavian, foreign and forbidding. On the rare occasions when it was mentioned, it was mocked or scorned with terms like fundamentalist, legalistic, harsh. It sounded like a sour way of religion and life that originated with a well-intentioned but misguided man named Hans Nielsen Hauge.

I had no idea that my own faith was shaped by pastors and institutions influenced by pietistic German Lutherans whose very existence was the result of the missionary efforts and zeal of Pietists in that part of Europe.

When I moved west, I met church "refugees," who avoided church and shunned "religion," who spoke of being harmed by stern, judging, shaming experiences among those whom they sometimes referred to as pietistic.

As I listened to their stories, I remembered similar experiences in the east. But there we spoke of the negative influence the temperance movement and of fundamentalism fueled by radio preachers and revival meetings.

I learned that these, too, had played a strong role in the lives of the people who immigrated to western Canada who called themselves Pietists.

But as I am learning, this is not a balanced view of pietism. The dialectic dance in which we Lutherans delight to engage one another forced me to look beyond sinfulness and seek the saintly in pietism.

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As I live among people whose lives have been shaped by pietism, I encounter people for whom prayer is as vital and natural as breathing, who enjoy studying the Bible together, who generously give of themselves to witness to God's love in Christ through practical and patient missionary endeavours intended to bring healing salvation to both body and soul in their own community and in communities around the world.

It was not by chance that those who came before them have left a legacy of vital institutions such as Augustana, CLBI, Messiah Lutheran and the Bethany Group, to name a few, or that they play such active roles in both church and society.

I am learning that authentic piety engages a person in active commitment to holy living that nourishes itself in prayer and Bible and service with and for others and that Hauge was one of many who modeled such living. I am also learning that many who have inherited this legacy are unaware of it; some are even embarrassed to be told that they might be considered Pietists.

That's why I'm looking forward to participating in *The Genius of Piety and the Challenge of Modernity*. This will be an opportunity to uncover what has been hidden, perhaps to recover a few personal stories before age silences those who have those stories to tell, and to discover a genius in piety that still has much to contribute to future generations.

*God bless,
Pastor Kenn Ward*

THE GENIUS OF PIETISM AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY

Five Monday evenings 7-9 pm January 11 - February 8

This series will be repeated on the following Tuesday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton

Cosponsored by Messiah Lutheran Church, Chester Ronning Centre, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta and Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute

Please mark these dates on your calendar today and plan to attend as many of these sessions as you can. There is no fee for the series. Donations are welcomed.

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THE GENIUS OF PIETISM AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY SPEAKERS

REV. DR CAM HARDER

A former pastor of Messiah, Rev. Dr Cam Harder is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary and Director of the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry ("CiRCLe M") in Saskatoon, SK. His research has focused on rural communities, including the effects of Hauge's reforms on rural Norway.



Dr. Harder will also be preaching at both services on Sunday, January 10 and will be leading AdultFEST that day.



DR. DAVID J. GOA

Dr. David J. Goa, CRC, is the Director, Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life. He grew up as a member of Messiah.

DR. EUGENE L. BOE



Dr. Eugene L. Boe is Academic Dean and Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls, MN. He earned a PhD in theology from Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO, with additional study in the U.S., Norway, Germany, and Israel. He also serves as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wendell, MN.

Dr. Boe will also be preaching at both services on Sunday, January 24 and will leading AdultFEST that day.

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THE GENIUS OF PIETISM AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY SERIES SCHEDULE—MONDAYS 7-9 PM

PIETISM AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL NORWAY

Monday, January 11 - Cam Harder

Dr. Harder will examine Hans Nielsen Hauge's work in the context of the decimation of Norway's rural economy at the end of the 18th century, the influence of his social and spiritual reforms, and some implications for our own modern Canadian context.

SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION OR COLONIZATION: PIETISM, A PRAIRIE STORY

Monday, January 18 - David J. Goa

PIETISM AND THE SACRAMENTS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Monday, January 25 - Eugene L. Boe

Dr. Boe will consider the understanding of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and their place in the Christian life as presented in the *Explanations of Luther's Small Catechism* by Philip Jacob Spener (1677) and Erik Pontoppidan (1737). He will also consider the influence of these teachings in the pietistic movements.

PIETISM AND THE BIBLE IN THE NEW WORLD: READING FOR FRIENDSHIP, READING FOR PROOF

Monday, February 1 - David J. Goa, CRC

A GLORIOUS AND SAD SONG: THE LAST PIETIST TO BE BURIED ON THE PRAIRIES

Monday, February 8 - David J. Goa, CRC



CONFIRMANDS WILLINGLY SERVE THEIR GOD

On the weekend of November 13-15, we took our confirmation kids out to Camp Kuriakos. Since they had no school classes, instead of just going for the retreat, they got up at the crack of dawn on Friday and went out to the camp to help.

They had an amazing day together cleaning out leaves from gutters, washing walls, sweeping decks and working together as a team.

The experience was bonding for us all and it was very obvious that they learned so much about service. We also spent the four class times talking, experiencing and studying about serving.

The kids expressed that they learned

- that serving can be fun if you are open to it
- that working together is important
- that all parts of the body of Christ are important
- that their neighbor includes everyone both near and far
- that serving is about "Loving their neighbor"
- that we don't serve alone but rather with the help of God
- that it is important to open our eyes to see where help is needed
- that we are commanded and invited and created to serve
- that when we serve, we are the most fulfilled in life
- that as they serve they feel more of an ownership to the place they give to
- that serving completes the circle of giving and receiving which is so important for God's love to flow to us and to others (Which means receiving the love of others is also an important part of this process.)

There are so many other things we all learned and in amongst it all they had a blast playing, studying and serving with each other and their God.

Watch for a mural they created in this process that will be posted somewhere in the church.

Thanks Confirmation Youth for your faithful service. And big thanks to Dorina for all your help in making this happen.

We are indeed blessed to serve.

*Bev Swanson
Diaconal Minister*

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be open on December 24 until noon.
It will open again from 9 am to noon each day on Tuesday, December 29, Wednesday, December 30 and Thursday, December 31.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at Messiah

Praise God! Our son Brian has come through his cancer treatments and has been progressing well. We thank all of you for your many acts of kindness and prayers. God is good – He still answers prayer!

Bob & Elly Holmberg

IN HOSPITAL?

Please remember that when you are admitted at St. Mary's Hospital, if you want your religious affiliation listed so that our pastors know you are a patient, you or your designated spokesperson must ask to have that information included on the registration form. Even better, please let the Church Office know 780-672-3444.

CAN YOU HELP US OUT??

We need donations of Christmas gift bags and boxes (small to medium), and cookie tins!

We need lots of them! By Dec. 6! Please bring to Church Office or place in box at back of the Sanctuary. Thank you! That's all we'll say for now!

Also Needed! Someone to sew hems on worship flags! (fine material, probably a serger needed) Please see Marlys Sorenson if you could help out.

THE OPEN DOOR'S WISH LIST

With the increase in the number of youth using our services, we are finding that we are really low on the following items:

Margarine, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Pasta sauce, Cheese Whiz, Jam, Pancake syrup, Chunky soup, Chef Boyardee, Soups, Crackers, Canned tuna and ham, Snack packs; crackers & cheese or crackers & peanut butter, Fruit or veggie bars, Popcorn, Granola Bars, Juice/ Beverages: (1L or individual size) fruit or veggie juice, V8, water, Gatorade, Grocery Gift Cards to purchase fresh fruit and milk.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, Shampoo, conditioner, Feminine products (tampons), Razors, shave cream

Deodorant: male & female, Pillows, pillow cases, Towels, face cloths, Sheets: single bed size, Back packs

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your partners in ministry & neighbors across the back lane.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Although the following people and situations may not be mentioned in our prayers at every worship service, they continue to be held in prayer regularly by Messiah's members.

We have been praying for **Amanda Lindhout and Nigel Brenna**, hostages in Somalia for fifteen months after being kidnapped in August 2008. We give thanks to God that they were finally released on Wednesday, November 25.

✧ for **the coalition forces** serving in Afghanistan and their families. Keep them safe from harm and bring them home to their families and friends. Protect their hearts also from all the disaster and pain they must encounter as they serve. Give them and their loved ones strength, encouragement, and peace.

✧ for **our many partners in ministry**

✧ for all **missionaries** including **Rev. Brian Rude** (Messiah-sponsored missionary) serving in El Salvador. **Rev. Fran Schmidt** serving the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church; **Lori Endress** serving in Chiang Mai, Thailand at Payap University, an institution founded by the Church of Christ in Thailand; **Rev Yoli Zavaleta**, Pastor of Fiel es Dios (God is Faithful) congregation in Iquitos and the rural faith community in El Triunfo, Peru; **Rev Sergio Utz**, Pastor of Esperanza del Sur (Hope of the South) Congregation in Esquel and Cruz de Sur (Southern Cross) Congregation in Bariloche, Argentina; **Rev Gustavo Gomez**, Pastor of San Juan Bautista (St John the Baptist) Congregation in Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina; **Christine Mattimoe**, Volunteer in Mission from Resurrection, Orleans ON, serving as a teacher of French at the Sahel Academy international mission school in Niamey, Niger.

✧ for **our National Church** as we seek God's guidance for a new model of being church, equipping us to live out our vision of a church *In Mission for Others*.

✧ that one of our members would be inspired to serve as our **Vice-President**

✧ for our newly formed **Call Committee** as we begin to clarify our priorities in Sharing Jesus Christ with All People in preparation for seeking a new Senior Pastor

✧ for **those who lead** us in fulfilling our mission, the members of Church Council, our Standing Committees, our staff and for each of us as we serve in our individual ways

*You are also encouraged to make use of **Additional Prayers** beginning on page 72 in **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.*

We welcome requests for prayer. If a person is to be prayed for at one of our services, we must have that person's permission to use their name.

NEIGHBOR AID AND THE FOOD BANK

Neighbor Aid has many programs under its umbrella. The one that most of the community will recognize is the Camrose and District Food Bank. Messiah's Support Committee chose November 15 as the first Sunday when they encouraged members to make an extra effort to support the Food Bank by donating generously. Thank you so much to those who gave so willingly. This event was a great success.

To further help the community, a **Charity Check Stop** will take place on December 5th from 12 noon to 4 pm. A trailer will be placed on the service road between Elliott's Auto Care and Camrose Registry. (adjacent to 48 Avenue). **This event is three-fold.** The Kinettes will collect toys; Victim Services will accept monetary donations; and the Food Bank will accept non perishable food and/or Gift Certificates from local stores to help purchase food items. Monetary donations are also very welcome. All cheques payable to Neighbor Aid or Camrose & District Food Bank will be acknowledged by a charitable donation receipt, mailed to the benefactor. On the same day, Camrose EMS will be stuffing an ambulance with food donations. The ambulance will be in Safeway Parking Lot.

Should any members of the congregation feel they can **help at the Food Bank on December 5** to stow away all the product at the end of this event, please contact Pat Hagen at 780-679-3220. The anticipated time frame would be 3 - 4 hours.

December is a month of anticipation, excitement and reunions for most, but not for everyone. It can be a time of despair for those amongst us who have very little. With concerns about lack of food, no toys for the children and perhaps no loved ones close by, it can be a time of loneliness and fear.

To help assuage the burdens of families who have insufficient food at this time, **we will be hosting another food drive at Messiah on December 20.** I know we can give generously once again, and bring an element of peace to families, allowing them to receive a little of the help they need. This is your ministry. As a church family we care! We listen! We respond!

As well as donating product to the Food Bank, volunteers for other roles are also a major component. Volunteers are needed to help drive people to medical appointments in Edmonton and Wetaskiwin. Gas vouchers are given to drivers for this. If you feel you can add your name to the list, please call Pat at 780-679-3220.

So, let us guide and direct each step to the fulfillment of the goal to be ambassadors for Christ Jesus, (2 Corinthians 5:20), and by example, have a hand in Messiah's mission, *Sharing Jesus Christ with all people.*

*Until next time, Peace
Carol Cherry*



PLEASE PUT SOMETHING IN THE GROCERY CART FOR THE FOOD BANK IN OUR SANCTURY WHENEVER YOU CAN. THEN PUT IN SOMETHING EXTRA AT THE SERVICES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20.

The Camrose and District Food Bank has seen a massive 75 % increase in the number of people walking through its doors and it desperately needs your help before the shelves are empty and the doors are shut, leaving those in need to go hungry.

"We're in the middle of a recession and people need our help desperately. It's bad, I've never seen it like this," said Camrose and District Food Bank director Pat Hagen. "We're used to running from 90 to 110 hampers per month, and that is our capacity. We're now doing 185 to 200 hampers a month. It's a significant increase."



BIBLE BOOK CLUB BEING FORMED

Pastor Kenn is introducing a unique way of reading the Bible through Bible Book Club. Each month members of the club will read a book of the Bible before their monthly meeting.

As they read, they will think about: Who wrote this book? What is its main theme or themes? Where was it written and for whom? When was it written? Why was it written? What is its message for us today?

The reading schedule will be January - Jonah;
February - Luke; March – Exodus; April – Esther;
May – Song of Solomon; June – Revelation

Membership in a club will be limited to a maximum of 12 people. If more people are interested in taking part, we will form an additional club or clubs.

A sign-up form is available at the Information Centre. On it you will be asked to indicate the times that you would be available once a month to meet with other club members. We'll sort through the forms and try to come up with a time that matches everyone's schedule.

STUDENTS AWAY FROM HOME

Kayla Bentley (Science) University of Lethbridge

Morgan Bentley (Science) University of Lethbridge

Lawrence Bergquist (Theatre Foundations) Rosebud School of the Arts

Jessica Clement (General Studies) Grant MacEwan, Edmonton

Kathryn Clement (Science) Augustana U of A

Karen Horte (Interior Design) Mount Royal College, Calgary

Sarah Kuntz, (Elementary Education) University of Alberta

Jen Lindstrand (Culture & Values in Education) McGill, Montreal

Jesse Sorenson (Physical Education) University of Alberta

Kara Sorenson (General Studies) Augustana U of A

Janelle Steinwandt (Tourism & Hospitality) SAIT



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE.
 4810 50 ST. CAMROSE AB T4V 1P5
 PHONE 780-672-3444 FAX 780-672-3716
www.messiahcamrose.ca

MESSIAH MESSENGER

Published 11 times a year—September to July.

Also available online at www.messiahcamrose.ca

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— January

Material due— December 8

Delivery date—December 18

DECEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:00 Journeying Thru Prayer 4:00 Big Drum 7:30 Messiah Choristers	2 8:00 Morning Prayer 1:15 Ladies Chorus 1:15 Big Drum 6:45 Scouts 7:00 Men's Chorus	3 11: 00 Handbells 4:00 Service Cmt 4:00 Cherub Choir 5:30 MCF Christmas Banquet 6:45 Confirmation	4 5:00 Refugee Support Group 5:30 Canadian / Colombian Pot Luck 7:00 Youth at Bethel	5 8:45 Men's Bible Study 10:30 Worship Band
6 Advent 2 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 KidFEST 9:30 Youth Leadership 9:45 Friendship Club 10:00 AdultFEST 10:30 Tune In To God 11:00 Contemp Comm 1:00 KidFEST making managers	7 7:00 Camerata 7:30 World Missions	8 Messenger Articles Due 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:00 Journeying Thru Prayer 4:00 Big Drum 7:30 Messiah Choristers	9 8:00 Morning Prayer 1:15 Ladies Chorus 3:00 Big Drum 6:45 Scouts 7:00 Men's Chorus	10 11: 00 Handbells 4:00 Cherub Choir 6:45 Confirmation	11 NO Youth	12 8:45 Men's Bible Study 9:30-12 Noon Choir & KidFEST Rehearsal
13 Advent 3 9:00 Advent Lessons & Carols 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Friendship Club Christmas Pageant 11:00 Christmas Festival 12:30 Soup & Sandwiches 1:00 About Time Productions	14 7:00 Camerata 7:30 ELW Christmas Program	15 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:00 Journeying Thru Prayer NO Big Drum NO Messiah Choristers 5:30 Staff Christmas Party	16 8:00 Morning Prayer NO Ladies Chorus NO Big Drum 6:45 Scouts NO Men's Chorus	17 NO Handbells NO Cherub Choir NO Confirmation	18 Messenger Delivery 11:00 Special Christmas Communion 7:00 Youth-Joint Prayer Service with Bethel	19 NO Men's Bible Study 10:30 Worship Band 6:00 Youth-Mustard Seed, Edmonton
20 Advent 4 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Coffee Fellowship KidFEST, Youth Leadership, Friendship Club, AdultFEST and Tune In To God resume In the New Year 11:00 Contemp Comm 3:00 Community Caroling 7:00 Sunday Spirit 7:00 Longest Night Service	21 NO Camerata	22 9:30 Staff Meeting NO Big Drum NO Messiah Choristers	23 8:00 Morning Prayer NO Ladies Chorus NO Big Drum NO Scouts NO Men's Chorus	24 Christmas Eve Office Open 9-12 Noon 12 Noon Office Closed 5:00 Lessons & Carols 9:00 Candlelight Communion	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 10:30 Christmas Communion	26 Boxing Day NO Men's Bible Study Johnson/Desjardin Wedding
27 1st Sunday of Christmas 8:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Coffee Fellowship KidFEST, Youth Leadership, Friendship Club, AdultFEST and Tune In To God resume In the New Year 11:00 Contemp Comm	28 Office Closed	29 Office Open 9 am-12 Noon	30 Office Open 9 am-12 Noon 8:00 Morning Prayer	31 Office Open 9 am-12 Noon 3:00 Thronsdon/Felzien Wedding		