



***This month at a glance:***

**Senior Support Dinner**

Thursday, June 2 and July 7,  
5 p.m.

**Church Council**

Council Meeting, Monday,  
June 13, 7 p.m. No meeting in  
July.

**Happy Hour**

Friday, June 10 and July 8,  
6:00 p.m. Charlie Brown's,  
980 Grant.

**WELCA Circles**

Will meet at the discretion of  
the Circle. Contact your Circle  
President.

**Men's Breakfast Group**

**Bible Study**

**Choir and Bell Choir**

**O.W.L.S.**

***are all on Summer  
break.***

*On May 22 we Confirmed Becca  
Wainess into our congrega-  
tion. She attended confirmation  
classes at the Park Hill United  
Church of Christ along with  
other students from the Park Hill  
area. The class read their "faith  
statements" which they wrote.  
Rev. Dr. David Bahr of the Park  
Hill UCC shares the honors with  
Rev. Wolfgang.*



***"Inspired and empowered by God, we seek justice, peace and inclusion for all creation."***

Messiah's Mission Statement

## A note from the desk of Pastor Wolfgang Stahlberg

Sunday May 22 was a wonderful day: We confirmed Becca Wainess, and it was great to have her family, peers and Rev. Dr. David Bahr participating with us in this celebratory confirmation service.

The same day was also a great disappointment for me and my colleagues in ministry. The special congregational meeting resulted in the decision not to retain the two staff positions of Director of Worship and Music and Director of Group Ministry and Education. The biggest disappointment to me was not only the result of the vote, but the discussion that led to it. At times I felt as if I were in a bank meeting, where the dominating topics were money issues and money-related fear.

As the spiritual leader of this community, it saddened me that only two or three single voices mentioned mission, ministry, or anything connected with it. It seemed as if it was not important to the parishioners of this congregation that we are travelling together on a journey of faith, that we have a mission, and that we are called to build the kingdom of God together in this place. Except for our council president Sherrill Morris in her introduction, nobody in the whole discussion ever mentioned our new mission statement and guiding principles that we have worked so hard to establish. Nobody put forward a vision for the future of this community. What

---

***...it saddened me that only two or three single voices mentioned mission, ministry, or anything connected with it...***

---

I heard was conversation about our past – our history. Yes, that history is important, but it should not be used to get in the way of our commitment, our calling, to do God’s work in this community.

What are we afraid of? To give up so-called assets? Is not God’s grace the greatest asset we have? Let me remind you of the first followers of Jesus, who left EVERYTHING behind when Jesus called them. Did they know how the situation would be a year or two years later? By no means! But they opened their hearts for the encouraging work of the Holy Spirit, and they dared to act on it and do what they were called to. And then in the first communities of Jesus followers, we hear that they were actually SHARING everything!

Do you remember the Manna story in the book of Exodus, chapter 16? The people of Israel, just liberated from slavery in Egypt, complained to their leader Moses (and indirectly to God) that they did not have enough food. God sent them food in a surprising way. They only had to pick it up. Some people gathered as much as they could, more than they needed, and what happened - it rotted! Hoarding stinks!

Where did our faith go? I do not understand how we, as a community of believers can make a decision to cut ministry positions, so that we can keep so-called assets. And even more puzzling for me is that we made a crucial decision like that with very little conversation about our mission and ministries!

Why are we here as Messiah Community Church? To have money in the bank and property in the mountains? I definitely do not think so. I believe that our only reason to exist as a congregation is to do God’s work and be the voice of Jesus in this place, this neighborhood, and in the whole world. Good stewardship is to use ALL of God’s gifts to us for this purpose!

Some of you surely remember the situation some eight years ago, when this congregation almost closed its doors. The interim pastor clearly told the congregation that to avoid closing Messiah, it would take a journey of transformation. Called to lead the congregation in this transformation, I believe that together you and I were making progress on that journey. The decision of May 22 throws us back. It is a dead-end that could easily result in a similar situation as the congregation faced eight years ago. Maybe it will take another eight years, maybe even longer, but choosing to keep assets over ministry is definitely not a transformative act. It is an act of fear and security, not an act of faith. It is an act that leads into the past, not into the future.



*Continued at top of next page...*

...Pastor Wolfgang from previous page

My question to those who see eliminating these staff positions as the right thing to do: Do you really believe this is how we, as a faith community, as people of God, do God's work?

***“No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth. Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear...But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”***

*(Matthew 6:24-25;33 – Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount)*

Shalom

Pr. Wolfgang

---

## **Notes from the Music Room**

**Dr. Nancy Beyer, Director of Worship and Music**

Grace and peace.

As we go into the summer season of worship I would like to thank all of the hardworking musicians of Messiah for their dedication and hard work which results in such an important contribution to our worship services. A worship service without music would be a sad service indeed. As the season has now ended for choir and handbells we are in need of special music throughout the summer. Please contact me if you are able to fill this need. At this point all Sunday's are available.

As an FYI, I will be on vacation June 4 - 12. Please remember to contact Jim in the office regarding any changes for your worship volunteer assignments.

---

## **Lord of the Valley Lutheran Mission Trip to Nicaragua 2011 by Jewel Wegs**

Twenty six members and friends of The Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church in Granby, and several other Lutheran churches will be making their fourth mission trip to four rural villages in Northern Nicaragua July 7 – 17, 2011. We are grateful for the generous support shown by Messiah last year and appreciate anything you can donate for the medical, dental, and eye clinics in Nicaragua.

**Medical Supplies: (Medication and toothpaste must have an expiration date of 2/2013 or later. This is a requirement of the country of Nicaragua.)**

- Toothpaste and tooth brushes for adults and children (original packaging)
- Acetaminophen – adult and children
- Vitamins and Ibuprofen – adult and children
- Gently used or new sunglasses
- Eyeglasses (We partner with the Lions' Club)
- Used large or extra large t-shirts, ball caps/hats for adults and children

**School Supplies** (we give these to the schools as a thank-you gift after clinic hours)

**Layette Items** (for women living in Casa Materna waiting for labor to begin)

**Clothing – new or gently used**

- Lightweight cotton shirt or Onesies (or similar item)
- Long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (with or without feet)
- Receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel or crocheted or knitted (suggested size 36" x 36")
- Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred, diaper pins
- Sweaters and Sweatshirts
- Washcloths (full sized preferred)
- Bath size bars of gentle soap in original wrapping

Please put donations in the blue barrel in the parlor. Call Jewel Wegs if you have questions about the donations or the trip. Thank you for your support!



# Group Ministry

**Leah Peden, Director of Group Ministry and Education**

Many thanks to the volunteer Sunday School teachers who made a difference for our kids. It goes without saying that Sunday School wouldn't happen without you. Thank you from the entire congregation! Sunday School classes will resume on September 18, 2011.

**The Social Ministry Team** will meet Monday evening, June 6, 6:45 p.m. in the parlor.

## Adult Forum

There are no regularly scheduled Adult Forums scheduled for June.

Join us in the library in July for return visits from two special Messiah friends:

July 17 - Leslie Penrose, director of Just Hope. (See WELCA article on page 9)

July 31 Peter Sawtell, EcoJustice Ministries (See Earth Day article on page 9)

## Volunteer NEEDED!

Although registration for VBS has closed, it is never too late to volunteer! There are many opportunities available during the weeks of June 6-10 and June 13 - 17 and your participation is needed to make this a safe and meaningful experience for the children in our community. A volunteer to teach Science during the first week is especially needed. The curriculum is user-friendly and Susan Gamble, who will teach the second week, will share her plans and ideas. Volunteers are also needed at Messiah on Thursday, June 2, at 1:30 p.m. to assemble name badges.

## NBA (no batteries allowed) Game Night

Join us in the parlor on Tuesday, June 28 for a light supper, games, and good company! Supper is served at 6:00, games begin at 6:30.

---

## Jesus Leaves the Sanctuary by Crystal Campbell

Rebecca Circle has been planning our next Jesus Leaves the Sanctuary event. You may recall our last event, when we prepared hygiene kits in response to the earthquakes in Haiti during our worship service last year.

This time, we'll be focusing on some projects a little closer to home. Our efforts will be in support of Urban Peak, a local organization that helps young people overcome poverty and homelessness, our own church community, and our military.

Urban Peak has provided a list of items that are currently needed, including clothing, snacks, and personal hygiene products. White socks and lotion are high on the list. The complete list is available in the church office. Email me at [crystalcampbell@comcast.net](mailto:crystalcampbell@comcast.net) if you would like the electronic version. Since Urban Peak doesn't require specific items or combinations of items (i.e. a kit), we can all contribute by bringing whatever we can to the church on the day of the event. We will have an area set up in the parlor to collect items in advance from those who won't be able to attend church on the date of the Jesus Leaves the Sanctuary event.

After bringing our items for Urban Peak down to the fellowship hall, we'll spend our Jesus Leaves the Sanctuary time creating messages of gratitude and thoughtfulness. Everyone will be able to participate by writing cards and letters and/or drawing pictures that will be sent to members of our church community that aren't regularly able to worship with us and to our military. We'll have cards, paper, markers, and pens, but feel free to start collecting blank cards, thank you cards, and thinking of you cards that you would like to provide for the project as well. The more messages of love we can share, the better!

The tiny little detail we don't quite have worked out yet is the date of the event. So keep your eyes peeled for that info in the weekly bulletin and the Messiah Moments.



## Plant Another Row by Denise Larson

Harvest time is coming! (At least for the early vegetables.) Please bring extra vegetables from your garden on the first and third Sunday every month starting June 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking the vegetables to the Food Bank the next day so that they can distribute the veggies to people who don't have access to good healthy food. If you would like to donate vegetables, but won't be coming to Church on these days, please let Denise Larson know and she will make sure the vegetables get to the Food Bank.

---

## Messiah Book Club by Susan Anderson

Our June book club selection is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Our meeting date has changed from June 8 to **June 16**, the third Thursday of the month. This book should be a good kickoff for the summer reading season.

If the third Thursday of the month continues to work for most people, our July book club will be on **July 21**. We have chosen a short read, *Have a Little Faith*, by Mitch Albom. Many of you may have already read this, but I think this true story will make for a great discussion.

Since we have a short read in July, we have chosen *The Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett for our **August 18** book selection. This is the first installation of a trilogy highlighting the beginning of the 20th century. Mr. Follett takes only 985 pages to intrigue us with this historical fiction. If you have read any of Mr. Follett's other books like *The Pillars of the Earth*, I think you will agree that this selection will be well worth the effort.

In preparation for October's Bock Lecture Series, we will be reading *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by our lecture series speaker Diane Butler-Bass. Our target date for September's book club is September 15.

We continue to meet at Susan Anderson's house at six o'clock and begin our discussion with a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome to join us for the **Messiah Book Club** even if you haven't finished the book.

---

## Sad Times at Messiah

Following the Congregational meeting on May 22nd, I left the church with a very sad and empty feeling. As most of you know, the congregation decided to eliminate the positions of Director of Worship and Music and the Director of Group Ministry and Education. This decision did not produce any winners within the congregation for we all will suffer a huge loss. While I don't feel this decision was made as a result of personality conflicts, I do feel that it was a huge mistake for the well-being of the congregation as a whole. I don't have any answers to the problem. But I am left with many questions.

How can we expect a congregation to grow when we eliminate staff positions?

What good are assets if they are not used for the benefit of the congregation?

What most benefits the majority of individuals in the congregation?

Do we really want a church service without music?

Do we really want church services without a choir and bell choir?

Are we ready to stop the growth of small group ministries?

I could go on and on with questions concerning what we have lost. What I see us left with is an outstanding, progressive pastor, a diminished worship program and decreased leadership and support. I see us left with a beautiful church that has no mortgage, 27 acres of land in the mountains, a mutual fund of \$150,000. Are these material goods really more important than the spiritual growth of the individuals within the congregation?

I am a relatively new member of the church. In these last two years, I have seen significant growth in children's programs, music programs, and small group ministry and education. I am impressed with how many small group activities there are. There is virtually something for everyone. It is because of these that I became a member. I am deeply saddened to know that this growth and inclusiveness may soon come to an end.

With deepest love and respect for all, Susan Anderson, Council Member

---



## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

I am writing this letter to report on the Special Congregational Meeting held Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> after church and after the reception celebrating the confirmation of Miss Becca Wainess.

81 members were in attendance. Our constitution calls for a quorum of 50. The process was explained and our parliamentarian, Ms. Donna J. Thompson, a professional registered parliamentarian, was introduced. The services of a professional parliamentarian were retained so that the process would be procedurally correct and fair to everyone involved.

An introduction to the question of the retention of the part time staff positions of Director of Worship and Music, and Director of Small Group Ministry and Education, was given. Then an introduction to the question of how to finance those positions, should we choose to retain one or two of them, was given. Council had determined that these discussions needed to be held in a parallel fashion because the first could not be discussed without the second. Many members have suggested that the two should have been held separately, but council met for many hours, 8 in less than one week in particular, for discussion and prayer and the formulation of this plan and it was what we came up with for the meeting.

After a discussion focusing mostly on the financing and very lightly on the ministries of the two positions, a vote was taken. The vote was to retain neither position, so the further question of funding was not discussed.

What are the consequences of this vote? Hiring a vocal and bell choir director will mean adding that salary to our budget. (Currently the salary is funded with Bock monies.) The question has been raised as to the possibility of our current organist taking over the duties of the choir director. If that were to happen, that salary would need to be increased accordingly.

Other ministries such The Fair Trade Market, Dinner With Friends, Game Night, Book Club, Theater and Theology, Bible presentations, First Communion classes, and even cleaning coffee pots and washing coffee cups every Sunday will need to be eliminated or taken over by volunteers. It is my hope that volunteers will step forward very soon to take on leadership roles in these ministries.

Because of the vote to eliminate these positions, members of this congregation will need to invest well over forty hours a week to maintain the ministries. If that truly happens, then perhaps ministries at Messiah will grow and thrive. If that does not happen, the fruit will dry on the vine the harvest will not be collected.

One last procedural note: Any active member may come to the office in the next 30 days and ask for a recount. The votes have been saved and I can tell you, a recount would not change anything (I witnessed the counting and it was done in precisely the correct fashion.) but it is your right as an active member. After that time the ballots will be destroyed.

On a personal level, I am disappointed that the discussion focused solely on the funding issue and not on the mission or ministries of Messiah. I am also leery of the congregation having the time or commitment to step up and take over the ministries that will be left without leadership. But, as the old saying goes, we have made our bed and must lay in it. It is my fervent hope and prayer that something good arises out of this, that lay leaders who are not current volunteers, step up and take on ministries. Perhaps this vote was a call to action. If we choose to be a vibrant and growing congregation, WE must make it happen.

Blessings in the God who is mystery and transition.

Sherrill Morris, Council President, Messiah Community Church 2012

---

## **Town-Hall-Meeting**

Sunday June 5, after coffee hour (at 11), the pastor invites all to a “Town Hall” meeting in the library. Let’s talk about Messiah Community Church!

## Pridefest Parade

Due to a lack of registration for the Pridefest parade, Social Ministries has decided to drop the Parade for this year and focus on next year. The festival is both Saturday, June 18th, and Sunday, June 19th, with the parade being Sunday morning. Although we will not be walking in the parade, if there is anyone attending the festival on Saturday the 18th in Civic Center Park, I am willing to arrange for a group to attend. Contact Sherrill Morris through the office or at home for more information.

---

## Continued Education

Once again, I (Pastor Wolfgang) will be at Phillipps Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK from June 20 to July 1. It will be my last extended class. After that, only (!) the dissertation remains to be done. On June 26, our wonderful lay leaders Sherrill Morris and Jim Tallman will lead the worship service. To do things according to the book, I will pre-consecrate the elements of communion.

---

## Pentecost

June 12 is Pentecost. Let us celebrate the Holy Spirit!

---

**Christianity. The First Three Thousand Years** is the title of a book on the history of the church by the British historian Diarmaid MacCulloch. Because the book has 1000 pages, we thought it would be easier to watch the six one-hour-DVDs that MacCullough did with the BBC. If you have any interest in church history, this series is highly recommended. It takes us to many of the important locations of Christianity, sometimes with a surprising result. MacCullough is a charming guide, who asks many very good, although sometimes difficult questions. Pr Wolfgang and Brian Haller will lead three compact and intensive meetings on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm at the church. We will watch a DVD, talk about it, and watch another one and talk about it. The dates are July 13 and 27, and August 10. Please sign up in the parlor!

---

## O.W.L.S. (Seniors)

The Messiah O.W.L.S. will be on vacation for the summer and will meet again on September 15, 2011. We will meet in the Chapel at 11:30 a.m. for a brief homily before lunch at noon in fellowship hall.

Have a good summer!

---

## Two advertisements for the same job

*1 Looking for a pastor who is a CEO in disguise (without authority)*

**WANTED:** Person to fill position that involves important but undervalued work; exact job description unclear. Long hours; must work weekends and holidays. Low pay. Master's degree required; doctorate preferred. Must be accomplished at multitasking, including running an organization without clear authority to do so. The successful candidate will be skilled as a public speaker, manager, politician, and therapist, and will devote significant time each week to pastoral visits. The position reports to multiple bosses.

*2 Looking for a pastor who is a pastor (with authority)*

**WANTED:** Persons for a vocation that leads God's people in bearing witness to God's new creation revealed in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Work schedule is shaped by relationships, focusing on what is important in people's lives, and depends on regular rhythms of work, rest, and play. Compensation is shaped by a mutual discernment of what is necessary in order for the persons (and, where appropriate, their families) to have an appropriately well-lived life. The vocation involves cultivating holy dispositions, preaching and teaching, nurturing rigorous study, and shaping practices of faithful living in church and world. Lifelong education and formation is expected in order to enable others also to grow; throughout their lives. The successful candidate will collaborate with others toward the same ends. The vocation reports to God.

(Examples from the book *Resurrecting Excellence. Shaping Faithful Christian Ministry*, by L. Gregory Jones and Kevin R. Armstrong)

## A note from your Treasurer Tim Habib

I wanted to take a few minutes to give you my impressions from the congregational meeting Sunday. My first reaction was to resign from council, for various reasons. Sherrill called me in the afternoon to discuss the meeting and I informed her of that decision. My next reaction was to start looking for another church home for my family. I didn't see a future for our young kids in this environment, of looking and living in the past, and not willing to consider bold ideas to lead us into the future. These are characteristics of a dying congregation.

After sleeping and praying on it, I came to a different conclusion. I will not resign from council, and we will not, for the time being, start our search for another church. However, I am issuing a challenge to all those who spoke out against continuing the two staff positions and all the people who voted not to continue the positions. My challenge to you is, **show me your vision for the future of this congregation**. Show me your plan that makes this an appealing place for families, and attracts new members from the community. And I want this to be a concrete plan, taken through church council and presented to the congregation.

Let me summarize what I took to be your vision for the future of Messiah.

### 1. Keep Messiah Mountain at all costs

This is a beautiful property that the congregation has voted with their feet to not support. Very few people from the congregation go there, except for the few honorable people who work on the property, mainly Duane Larson, Paul Weber, and Roger Miller. I applaud them for their effort. This property is not a draw to new members, and can, in fact, be a liability. (Is everyone aware of the fire last year, started by a cigarette from someone using our facility, that came 200 feet from burning down a very expensive neighbor's house?)

### 2. Operate with no positions working on programming

There was a long list created before the meeting that outlined all the activities and programs that the current staff members are responsible for. These would either be eliminated or possibly picked up by volunteers. Many of these are exactly the programs that are most appealing to families with children and prospective new members.

I don't see the above options as being viable cornerstones to building a thriving congregation. Whether you agree or disagree with Pastor Wolfgang, there is one main thing that I give him credit for. He has dragged this congregation, whether we liked it or not, **kicking and screaming** into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! And that is exactly the place we need to be to thrive. I know that it has been difficult for many people, but for us to continue to exist and be a meaningful congregation, change is not only inevitable, it is necessary. Embrace it, and grow with it. Seriously embrace and grow with our new Mission and Guiding Principles.

One point that I would like to disagree with from the meeting is that we are not growing. Since Pastor Wolfgang has come to our congregation we have grown in numbers. Based on ELCA trend report data that I can show you, we have slowly increased in numbers. I think everyone can see all the little kids going to Sunday school, and feel their enthusiasm. We haven't grown as quickly as we would all like, but we have lost a lot of our older members at that same time, and many cannot make it to worship on Sunday. I think that the most important aspect of that is that we have finally reversed a trend that has been going on for 40 years here, and is also happening nationwide. That is significant.

It's obvious from our giving that we are not growing fast enough, but let's work to keep the momentum created by Pastor Wolfgang and the staff going. I didn't have an easy answer on how we can fund the positions I feel we need to grow, but I was very disappointed in the direction that the discussion took on

positions and their strategic place in our future, and whether we could creatively work together to find a way to make it happen. Some of that was due to the way that the voting options were presented, and council has to take responsibility for that, but we could have worked through those issues.

I go back to my earlier challenge. To all those who spoke at the meeting, and to all those who voted against the positions, show me your concrete vision and plan for the future of this congregation. Feel free to contact me with your thoughts at [timdhabib@gmail.com](mailto:timdhabib@gmail.com).

Thanks,

Tim Habib

### From the Community

If you need an updated directory, please contact the office and we will be happy to print one for you at any time. We update our member database anytime there is a change, and the only way to keep track is to request a directory. Printing many copies, only to have them change and be obsolete, uses paper and resources.

### Happy Hour

Join us for a few laughs and good conversation and drink specials on Friday, June 10 and July 8 at Charlie Brown's (10th and Grant Street). If the weather cooperates we will be outside on the patio starting around 6:00 PM. See you then!

*"It's the happiest hour of the week."* (A. Rue)

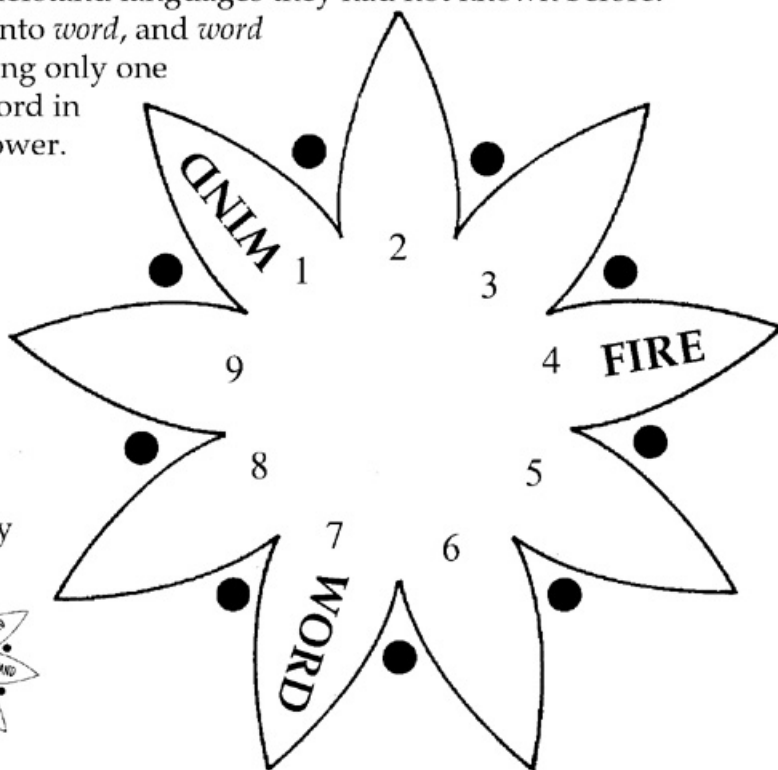
Have any questions? Contact Scott Anderson at 720-232-3521.

## Three Little Words

On the Day of Pentecost people were filled with the Holy Spirit and were changed. They heard a sound like the rush of a mighty wind and something like tongues of fire appeared. The people were able to speak and understand languages they had not known before.

Change the word *wind* into *fire*, *fire* into *word*, and *word* into *wind* by moving clockwise (changing only one letter at a time) and writing the new word in the blank spaces on the petals of the flower. Below is a list of clues.

1. **WIND**
2. a grape drink
3. very thin or very nice
4. **FIRE**
5. metal thread
6. She \_\_\_\_ a hat
7. **WORD**
8. a long room in a hospital with many beds
9. a magic stick



## Messiah Birthdays

### *in June and July*

*Please inform the office if you are not listed*

#### **June**

Zoe Adams	1
John Shoffstall	4
Frances Sitone	4
Elvera Thorne	4
Jodi Haller	5
Cora Smitherman	6
Gabriel Oke	7
Sarah Speicher	9
Katherine Miller	11
Craig McClain	13
Amy Wainess	15
Christin McClain	18
Adrienne Adams	20
Brian Haller	24
Jessica Larson	26
Lorraine Kahler	29
Dave Heid	30

#### **July**

Jo Dillion	1
Jewel Wegs	1
Bill Ash	2
Susan Bishop	2
Bill Dillion	2
Dottie Ridinger	7
Joslyn Stallman	7
Elizabeth Bishop	8
Lori Gill	8
Tim Habib	10
Shirley Karabatsos	12
Al Rue	13
Cecilia McClain	15
Sue Schroeder	15
Carolyn Steen-Smith	15
Elsa Buhr	19
Craig Fischbach	19
Kyle Krebs, Sr.	21
Renate Ozkan	26
Joshua Kail	27
Susan Krebs	27
Ethen Krebs	31

## Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly 2011

### Sandy and Craig Fischbach

We want to thank this congregation for allowing us to represent you at the assembly, giving us the opportunity to learn about all the ministries we do and enjoy the experience of worship with this body of devoted and inspiring member congregations and individuals. The ELCA is a vibrant synod in partnership with many others whose work seeks to benefit all of creation and serve all of God's children. Bishop Bjornberg delivered an impressive opening address about our call. The theme of the assembly was Our Daily Bread and we were inspired by the Bible Studies led by Dr. Barbara Rossing, a Lutheran New Testament scholar from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. We are so impressed with the support given to congregations in Haiti, rural America, our educational institutions, advocacy, social justice issues and all groups of individuals from the very young to the very old. Another highlight was meeting dedicated Lutherans from all over Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah and Texas (El Paso).

It was not all education and worship as we did do some business too. Elections were held, the budget was approved and resolutions were passed in a very passionate but orderly manner. The 5 resolutions are:

- 1 - MINISTRY TO MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES
- 2 - STUDY OF THE KAIROS PALESTINE DOCUMENT (written by Palestinian Christians)
- 3 - SUPPORT FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY
- 4 - NEW COMPANION SYNOD IN MADAGASCAR
- 5 - TO PREVENT BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND RELATED VIOLENCE (A similar memorial to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly was also adopted on this issue.)

These resolutions and an overview of the assembly may be viewed in their entirety at [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly).

Also, having been spiritually and physically fed and thoroughly entertained by a talented cello and guitar duo called "Acoustic Eidolon." Our hearts are full of gratitude and ready for service. Our own Leah Peden participated as a workshop leader and Nancy Beyer led all worship events in music and both did great jobs. Stay tuned as we will be hearing more about how we can participate in all the RMSELCA activities in adult forums, social ministry campaigns and worship opportunities. We were so proud to claim Messiah Community Church as our home. Again, thank you for the privilege and we will attempt to help this congregation to carry out our mission and the stated purpose of the Rocky Mountain Synod: Every person, every congregation, every ministry, boldly serving God's mission in Christ.

## **Thank you!**

The cookies again were very good! Unfortunately, they are gone now.  
Andrei Andronescu



## New Member Orientation

All people who are interested in officially joining our community at Messiah, are welcome to a new member orientation meeting with wine and cheese on Monday, June 6, at 6:30 pm in the parlor. Those who decide to join Messiah Church, will be received into the community during worship on June 12, which is fittingly Pentecost.

---

## Earth Day in July! Dave Edwards

Messiah congregants have probably become accustomed to Reverend Peter Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries delivering our sermon and conducting our adult forum on the Sunday closest to Earth Day in April. However, this year Earth Day was on Good Friday and the closest Sunday was Easter Sunday, so Reverend Sawtell wasn't able to visit with us.

To correct this anomaly and provide Messiah with the Earth Day message it deserves, the Messiah Green Team has declared Sunday, July 31 to be Messiah Earth Day 2011! Reverend Sawtell will join us to preach the sermon and conduct an adult forum session that day. Plan to attend and hear about ways to better care for God's creation, the earth we live on. Bring your questions about living green and things we can do to help to the adult forum, where Reverend Sawtell will be glad to give his views and to moderate discussion within those attending.

DON'T FORGET!.....Postpone those vacations until August and join us on Sunday, July 31 for Messiah Earth Day 2011! Most assuredly, you will learn something new on that day!

---

## Green gardening by the numbers

1500 lbs: the amount of garbage the average person throws out each year, according to Mark Harris, the author of *Embracing the Earth* (Noble Press, 1990). Expect to haul only 375 pounds of trash to the curb annually if you compost.

40 percent: the percentage of total vegetables consumed that were produced in 'victory gardens' planted in homes, schools and farms during World War II.

40 million: acres of lawn exist in the United States, making turf grass the single most irrigated crop, according to NASA. (from treehugger.com)

## Messiah Women Monnie Walter

The fall gathering of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization (RMSWO) in Colorado will be one day only, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church in Estes Park. As I wrote in last month's *Messenger*, the theme is "The Unpaved Road." Please mark your calendars now. More information will be coming to us in August.

Carolyn Steen-Smith has volunteered to take over the presidency of Messiah Women. Her position begins this month. We are looking forward to new spirit and ideas. Thank you, Carolyn! Doris Sorensen will continue as Treasurer. Thanks also to you, Doris!

Although Messiah Women do not meet in July and August, we continue our service projects and are looking forward to helping host Rev. Leslie Penrose of Just Hope visit when she is here in July.

Thanks to all Messiah Women for your support these past five years. You are the hands that keep doing God's work.

### SAVE THE DATE !

The Reverend Leslie Penrose of Just Hope, the organization that Messiah Community Church partnered with last fall to support the women of Chacraseca, Nicaragua, will be here in Denver on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be welcoming her on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> here at Messiah at 6:30. All members are invited to join us for a light, finger-food-type potluck in Fellowship Hall, followed by her program, updating us on Just Hope's mission.

## WELCA Circles

<b>Anna</b>	Thursday June 9, 2011, 12:45 p.m. Hostess: Elizabeth Piester, Denver (call office or see your directory for address)
<b>Rachel</b>	Not meeting until September, 2011
<b>Rebecca</b>	Saturday, June 11, 12:00 noon picnic. Hostess: Frances Sitone Denver (call office or see your directory for address)

# Messiah Calendar for June

<b>JUNE</b>							<b>2011</b>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>May</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>July</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 5p: Senior Support dinner	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee; 11:00a: Town Hall Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:30 p.m. New Member Orientation 6:45p: Social Ministry Team meeting  Vacation Bible School at Park Hill United Methodist Church on Montview -----	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6p: Happy Hour at Charlie Brown's	<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> 9:30a: Season of Pentecost begins, Communion Worship, New Member reception; 10:30a: Coffee; 2 p. Messiah Mountain Pot Luck	<b>13</b> 7p: Council Meeting  Vacation Bible School at Park Hill United Methodist Church on Montview -----	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6p: Book club	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>19</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee  Pridefest Weekend	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee;	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00p: No Batteries Allowed Game Night  Pastor Wolfgang at Theology School in Oklahoma-----	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

## Assisting in Ministry Schedule

	<b>Sunday 05</b>	<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>Sunday 26</b>
<b>June Assisting Min.</b> <i>(Dennis Bangtson)</i>	Dennis Bangtson	Barb Ritchen	Nick Beyer	Nancy Beyer
<b>Lectors</b> <i>(Sue Edwards)</i>	TBD	Bill Dillion	Crystal Campbell	Dennis Bangtson
<b>Laity Prayer</b> <i>(Liz Piester)</i>	Heather Varnell	Crystal Campbell	Sue Bomar	Sherrill Morris
<b>Children's Hom.</b> <i>(Denise Larson)</i>	Susan Krebs	Sherrill Morris	Mike Gill	Denise Larson
<b>Greeters</b> <i>(Juliann Jenson)</i>	Carolyn Steen-Smith	TBD	Doris Sorensen	Gill family
<b>Communion Svcs.</b> <i>(Dennis Bangtson)</i>	F Sitone, S Morris	Bangtson, S Edwards	Na Beyer, L Peden	M Franzke, Jim Krebs
<b>Acolytes</b> <i>(Nancy Beyer)</i>	Jens Jenson	Becca Wainess	Miles Gill	Riley Cain
<b>Sunday School</b> <i>(Edu. Committee)</i>	<i>Resumes September 18</i>			
<b>Altar Guild</b> <i>(Katie Anderson)</i>	Katie Anderson Sue Schroeder	Dana Buhr Tammy Heid	Katie Anderson Carolyn Smith	Tammy Heid Katie Anderson

*Please find your own replacements. Notify Jim of any changes by the Wednesday of your scheduled week.*

# Messiah Calendar for July

<b>JULY</b>							<b>2011</b>																																																																																			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
<b>June</b> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<b>August</b> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
		1	2	3	4																																																																																					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																				
26	27	28	29	30																																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																				
28	29	30	31																																																																																							
<b>3</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee;	<b>4</b> Independence Day Holiday, church office closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5p: Senior Support dinner	<b>8</b> 6p: Happy Hour at Charlie Brown's Bar	<b>9</b>																																																																																				
<b>10</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee;  2p. Messiah Mountain Pot Luck	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6-9p. in the library; 3,000 Years of Christian History.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6p. WELCA Event, dinner with Leslie Penrose, Just Hope																																																																																				
<b>17</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee; Adult Forum: Leslie Penrose, Just Hope Nicaragua	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6p: Book club	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>																																																																																				
<b>24</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee;	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6-9p. in the library; 3,000 Years of Christian History.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>																																																																																				
<b>31</b> 9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee; Adult Forum: Earth Day with Rev. Peter Sawtell																																																																																										

## Assisting in Ministry Schedule

	Sunday 03	Sunday 10	Sunday 17	Sunday 24	Sunday 31
<b>July</b>	Dennis Bangtson	Nancy Beyer	Barb Ritchen	Mike Gill	Nick Beyer
<b>Assisting Min.</b> <i>(Dennis Bangtson)</i>					
<b>Lectors</b> <i>(Sue Edwards)</i>	Clark Lyda	Rachel Hutson	Katie Anderson	Nick Beyer	Steve Mast
<b>Laity Prayer</b> <i>(Liz Piester)</i>	Dave Edwards	Mike Gill	Teresa Stenwall	Bill Dillion	Barb Ritchen
<b>Children's Hom.</b> <i>(Denise Larson)</i>	Lori Gill	Sherrill Morris	Park Gamble	Patty Cordova	Susan Krebs
<b>Greeters</b> <i>(Juliann Jenson)</i>	S&D Edwards	Eleanor Miller	P&MA Weber	Carolyn Smith	TBD
<b>Communion Srvs.</b> <i>(Dennis Bangtson)</i>	F Sitone, S Morris	L Peden, Ni Beyer	D Bang. S Edwards	S Morris, Na Beyer	C Wyatt, M Franzke
<b>Acolytes</b> <i>(Nancy Beyer)</i>	Jens Jenson	Miles Gill	Riley Cain	Amy Wainess	Becca Wainess
<b>Sunday School</b> <i>(Edu. Committee)</i>	<i>Resumes September 18</i>				
<b>Altar Guild</b> <i>(Katie Anderson)</i>	Dana Buhr Sue Schroeder	Katie Anderson Tammy Heid	Tammy Heid Carolyn Smith	Dana Buhr L & M Leslie	Katie Anderson Frances Sitone

*Please find your own replacements. Notify Jim of any changes by the Wednesday of your scheduled week.*



**Messiah Community Church**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 1750 Colorado Blvd.  
 Denver, CO 80220

**Church Staff**

Pastor + Wolfgang Stahlberg  
 Dir. of Worship & Music + Dr. Nancy Beyer  
 Dir. of Group Ministry & Edu.+ Leah Peden  
 Pianist/Organist + Eric French  
 Operations Manager + Jim Krebs

**Web site**

www.messiahdenver.org

**E-mail**

info@messiahdenver.org

**Phone**

303-355-4471

fax: 303-355-4472

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 A.M.

Children leave the service at approx. 9:40 for Sunday School.

Contact Information		E-Mail
Pastor	Wolfgang Stahlberg	Wolfgang@messiahdenver.org
President	Sherrill Morris	Sherrill@messiahdenver.org
Vice-President, Property	Scott Anderson	Scott@messiahdenver.org
Secretary, Community Communication	Marita Franzke	Marita@messiahdenver.org
Treasurer, Finances	Tim Habib	Tim@messiahdenver.org
Learning	Dana Buhr	Dana@messiahdenver.org
Social Ministry	Jim Tallman	JimT@messiahdenver.org
Hospitality	Suzanne Miller	Suzanne@messiahdenver.org
Stewardship, Green Team	Dave Edwards	Dave@messiahdenver.org
Congregational Support	Susan Anderson	Susan@messiahdenver.org
Dir. of Worship & Music	Nancy Beyer	nancy@messiahdenver.org
Dir. of Group Ministry & Education	Leah Peden	leah@messiahdenver.org
<b>Messiah Mountain</b>	303-697-8717	RetreatCenter@messiahdenver.org

