

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

**Senior Support Dinner**

Thursday, Sept. 1, 5 p.m.

**WELCA Circles**

Sept. 8 & 10

**Men's Breakfast Group**

Saturday, Sept. 10, 8:30 a.m.

**Church Council**

Council Meeting, Monday,  
Sept. 12, 7 p.m.

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

Thursday, Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m.

**Happy Hour**

Friday, Sept. 16, 6:00 p.m.

**Rally Sunday**

Sept. 18

**Bible Study**

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.  
beginning Sept. 20

**Oktoberfest**

Sept. 25

**Cottage Meetings**

9/16, 9/22, 9/26. See Pastor  
Wolfgang's article on page 2

***A simple and convenient way  
to give***

*This fall, consider signing  
up for electronic giving. Messiah  
relies on the financial support of the  
congregation and electronic giving  
offers an easy way to give on a recur-  
ring basis. Please contact the church  
office for details.*

from Tragedy...to Chaos...to Hope

# REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

*An Interfaith Gathering*

Sunday, September 11  
10:00 am

Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church  
1980 Dahlia Street in Park Hill

Join seven congregations from Park Hill for an interfaith  
gathering in commemoration of the 10th anniversary  
of September 11th. This will be a time to remember  
and reflect on the importance of that day and the  
promise of hope as we look to the future.

Messiah Community Church Park Hill Congregational Church  
Northeast Denver Islamic Center Temple Micah  
Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
House for All Sinners and Saints

*Please see the article by Rabbi Adam Morris on page 6.*

***"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."***

Psalm 24:1

## A note from the desk of Pastor Wolfgang Stahlberg

Last month, I announced that we would organize some “cottage meetings” to talk about the current situation at Messiah as well as our future. I recently met with Tabitha Moore, an experienced coach and facilitator, who will help us focus on our expectations as well as our hopes and dreams for the future of this congregation.

After receiving her Bachelors in Psychology from the University of Texas, Tabitha got her Masters degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University in New York City. Since then she has moved to Boulder. Tabitha is a co-actively trained individual coach through the Coaches Training Institute (CTI). She has also been professionally trained as a co-active team coach through the Center for Right Relationship (CRR).

There will be three separate meetings where we will come together with open hearts and minds, sharing and embracing what is meaningful and valuable to each of us. The meetings will be held in what our facilitator calls a “sacred space,” meaning that the conversations shared will be kept in confidence.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Friday, September 16 at 10 am,**

**Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 pm,**

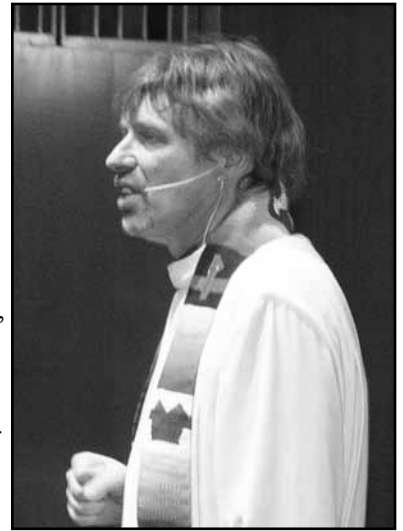
**and Monday, September 26 at 6:30 pm.**

There will be sign-up sheets in the parlor. Please sign up for the meeting that best fits your personal schedule. Perhaps you could attend a meeting where you will encounter new people, parishioners you do not know very well. We will summarize and review the whole process at an **Adult Forum on Sunday, October 9 at 11 am.**

The most important reason for these meetings is to continue the healing process for this congregation. The decision made at the congregational meeting in May, to discontinue our two program staff positions, surprised some people, upset others, and even made some think about leaving Messiah Community Church. But we are not here for ourselves, we are here because God calls us to do God’s work in the kingdom at this time in this place. We can disagree with each other, but we all need to work together for our mission: “**Inspired and empowered by God, we seek justice, peace and inclusion for all creation.**” (Messiah Mission Statement) With Paul, I greet you all (1Corinthians 1:2-7,9; Scholars’ Version): *Paul, to the gathering of God’s people [at Messiah] who are dedicated to the service of the Anointed Jesus, and called to be people of complete integrity along with everyone everywhere who appeals to the name of our lord, Jesus the Anointed, their lord and ours. May you have favor and peace from God our Creator and Benefactor and Jesus the Anointed, our lord. I thank God all the time for the generous favor God has shown to you through the Anointed Jesus. You have been richly endowed with speech and knowledge of every kind. Our testimony about the Anointed has indeed been confirmed among you, so you do not lack any gift as you wait for the coming of our lord, Jesus the Anointed. God is faithful and is the one who has called you into fellowship with God’s “son,” Jesus the Anointed, our lord.*

Shalom

Pr Wolfgang



## Study Group: A Progressive Approach to Jesus

Why does Jesus matter to us? Is Jesus more important than the Bible? What does Jesus disclose to us about the character of God? Are we aware of the two different realities the name Jesus represents, the pre-Easter Jesus and the post-Easter Jesus? Do we separate the two realities? What was Jesus trying to bring to humanity that was not here before? Is Jesus one of us? If Jesus did not die for our sins, why is he important? What does it mean that Jesus is the Way, and that his message is the Kingdom of God? What is our response to Jesus?

## **Group Ministry**

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

### **Sunday School Begins**

Classes for children age three through those entering seventh grade will begin on Sunday, September 18. The children will be divided into three groups; preschool-Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, and Grades 4-7. Children will attend church with their parents and leave for Sunday School classes after the children's homily. They will return to the worship service to receive Communion with their families.

The first Sunday of each month is Family Sunday. There is no Sunday School on those days and children take part in the entire worship service.

### **Child-Care at Messiah**

Our nursery is staffed every Sunday morning from 9:15 – 10:45 by long-time Messiah members, Craig and Cecilia McClain.

### **Children in Church**

We welcome young children to our nursery, but also welcome them to our worship services. In a recent conversation with parents of three children who visited Messiah, they commented on how friendly everyone had been. Messiah is a child-friendly church!

### **Sunday School and Nursery Registration**

There will be a registration table set up in the parlor on Rally Sunday, September 18. **Parents, please register your children!** It is important that we have information about the children we are caring for.

### **Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair Needs Volunteers**

September 25 will be a busy day in Park Hill; Messiah's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oktoberfest (see article elsewhere in the Messenger), the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Park Hill Home Tour, and the GPHC Street Fair will all take place on that day. Of course, all these events depend on volunteers. If you can help with the Home Tour or Street Fair, please email Pam and Denny Hovik at [dhovik@msn.com](mailto:dhovik@msn.com). Let's support GPHC!

### **Social Ministry – New Team Members Needed**

The Social Ministry Team will meet on **Monday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.** in the parlor. We are looking for new team members and welcome your participation. If you have questions, call Leah at 303-355-4471 ext. 11.

### **Your Donations Needed**

Bring gently-worn, ADULT, shoes and clothing to the parlor and place them in the "Blue Barrel." Men's items are especially needed. Your donations will be given to Senior Support Services clients.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

**Theater and Theology Coordinator:** For years participating congregations have enjoyed a special arrangement with the Theater Company of Denver Center for the Performing Arts. After viewing a performance, theatergoers engage cast members in a moderated talkback on theological issues in the play. Tickets are slightly discounted. The coordinator would help publicize the plays and dates, gather a congregational ticket order for each play, and then place a congregational order by phone or e-mail. As a thank you, the coordinator is given a free ticket for one of the plays of his/her choosing.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network Coordinator:** The short version of what IHN does is to provide shelter, meals, comprehensive assistance, and encouragement toward self-reliance in an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality to homeless families. We work with host churches St. Thomas Episcopal and Highlands Lutheran. The Messiah coordinator assists in organizing food donations and volunteers three times/year.

**Sunday School Teachers** to teach the winter or spring session (a seven Sunday commitment) for grades 1-3 or 4-7. You will be paired with a team teacher.

**Holy Hammers/Habitat For Humanity Coordinator** would attend group meetings to get information about the "builds" for the coming year and then recruit Messiah members and friends to participate.

**Call Leah at 303-355-4471 ext. 11 to volunteer or for more information about any of these opportunities.**



...Study Group continued from page 2

These and other questions will be leading points in our conversations. We will meet for seven Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at a home in Stapleton. Each of the seven study sessions will begin with a 25-30 minute DVD segment. If the group decides so, we will have a light snack and a glass of wine.

Please **sign up** for this study group in the parlor. If you know that you will miss one of the sessions, sign up anyway, the group will fill you in on what you missed. Everybody is welcome! If you have any questions please talk to Pr Wolfgang.

The Sessions (The topics are subject to change, if the group requests it):

Oct 4	Report on Jesus
Oct 11	The Life of Jesus
Oct 18	The message of Jesus
Oct 25	From Jesus to Christ
Nov 1	Who killed Jesus?
Nov 8	Death and Resurrection of Jesus
Nov 15	Jesus is Lord

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## King Soopers Card Update

### Sandy Fischbach

Thank you to all of you who have ordered and are using your King Soopers cards. We have purchased 25 cards and will receive 5% back on purchases made on them. Remember to reload your card at the store as needed so we can continue to benefit from your grocery, pharmacy and gas purchases.

If you were unable to get a card in August we will take orders at church again on Sept. 25, or you could send your check made out to Messiah Community Church with King Soopers on the memo line for whatever amount you would like. The initial card cannot be purchased at the store but must come from Messiah so it gets credited to our account. If you need more info, please email [sandyfischbach@messiahdenver.org](mailto:sandyfischbach@messiahdenver.org) and I will send out the instructions and order form.

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## Rally Day, September 18

This year our fall season-opener is a week later than usual because of the interfaith service on 9/11. (See article elsewhere in the Messenger.) As we have done in the past, we will introduce our ongoing ministries at Messiah and address the need for volunteers. This year however, we present them in a new way. During the worship service, team members who are passionate about a specific ministry, will give a short presentation about that ministry. Following the worship service, at coffee hour in the parlor, you will have the opportunity to join a ministry team by “signing up” at a video camera – no paperwork! We will continue our celebration of ministry and volunteers at a **potluck lunch** in Fellowship Hall.

Also on Rally Sunday we are asking parents of Sunday School children to please fill out registration forms for each of their children. There will be a registration table in the parlor before church and during coffee hour.

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## Worship with St. Thomas/Oktoberfest September 25

Just a week after the Rally Sunday celebration, we will worship with our neighbors from St. Thomas Episcopal Church at Messiah Community Church. After the service, it is time for our Third Annual **Oktoberfest!** Brats and brew, activities for kids, and lots of conversations with neighbors and parishioners will take the stage. We will **need volunteers** to help during set up, activities and clean up. Please watch for specifics in our Sunday bulletins and in the Messiah moments.

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## Messiah Junior Youth Group

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have the first meeting of the Messiah Junior Youth Group. At this meeting we may come up with a better name. It will be an opportunity to get the older kids together, outside of church and Sunday school, for some fun activities, faith discussion, and social ministry. This is for kids in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Gamble (303-355-5347, [susangamble@me.com](mailto:susangamble@me.com))

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

The Messiah Seniors will meet Sept. 15, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. for a brief service in the chapel before we enjoy a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. All Messiah seniors are welcome, so bring your favorite food and enjoy fellowship with your friends and relax for a program. Come and learn all about those white ivories known as teeth!

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## Men's Breakfast Group

Our first meeting of Fall 2011 is on Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8:30 a.m. Men of all ages are invited, and bring your "lady" too. Following breakfast we sometimes accomplish a few small tasks around the church but we are always done by 10:00 a.m. Please sign up in the East entry so that our chickens and pigs know what they must produce. Our conversations always cover a wide variety of subjects. Note: we usually meet on the first Saturday of the month.

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## Messiah Mountain Fall Picnic

October 2 at 2 p.m. is the Fall BBQ sponsored by the Men's Group and the Seniors. It will be the last picnic of the year at the Mountain. There may be some fall colors. Come see the improvements that have been made this year. Bring the kids and hike up to Inspiration Point. You may bring a covered dish. Meat will be furnished. Please sign up in the East entry so we know how much food to prepare.

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## Garage Sale Postponed

The garage sale scheduled for Saturday, September 24 has been postponed until next spring.

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## Bible Study

The summer is over and our **weekly Bible Study** begins again!

Beginning September 20 at 10 am, we will read **The Letter to the Hebrews** together. This anonymous letter from the end of the first century CE has 13 chapters. We will read the letter and discuss it as a group. Everybody is welcome. If you have not been part of this study group but are thinking about joining, ask one of the seasoned members of the group, if they enjoy their Tuesday mornings at Messiah! Hopefully we will manage to finish reading the book before Christmas! If you have any questions, please talk to Pr. Wolfgang

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## Children's Homily Tune-up

We will have a tune-up for all the volunteers who are currently or who would like to become involved with the children's homily. Like all public speaking and preaching, it is necessary from time to time to re-view, re-focus, and learn more about the importance and practice of this ministry.

Pr. Wolfgang and Leah Peden invite all interested parishioners to one of two meetings: Sunday, Sept 4 at 11 a.m. or Thursday, Sept 8, 6:30 p.m. Participation in one of the meetings is mandatory for all "children's preachers"! Sign up sheets will be in the parlor!

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## Bock Lecture Series

**Dr. Diana Butler Bass is coming to Messiah October 28-30, 2011. Spiritual and Religious: The Shape of Congregations for a Vital Future.**

Dr. Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of seven books including: *A People's History of Christianity: the Other Side of the Story* (HarperOne, 2009). Her best-selling *Christianity for the Rest of Us* (2006) was named as one of the best religion books of the year by Publishers Weekly and Christian Century.

Please take a flyer (or several) and put this event in your calendar now!

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**Sign up for the electronic version of the Messenger and help the Church save money and go green!**

## Remembering September 11th - From Tragedy to Chaos to Hope An Interfaith Gathering Rabbi Adam Morris

At the beginning of the summer some of the clergy in Park Hill met to consider a meaningful way that our communities could acknowledge the anniversary of September 11th. The primary question before us: What would such a remembrance look like?

As I approached that meeting, I considered what some of the commemorations on that day might look like. I would expect them to reverently focus on those lives lost. I would also expect there to be a recognition of the bravery exhibited by so many people in response to the tragedy. I also held a nagging concern and wariness of another focus or tone that some commemorations might take - especially in the wake of the capture and execution of Osama Bin Laden. I imagined ceremonies that might speak of ideological victories and couch the world in terms of 'us' and of 'them.' They would be ceremonies that would fail to address the emotional and spiritual complexities that still resonate from that day in history.

What do I mean? September 11th brought *tragedy* to our lives ... and I feel the need to acknowledge and mourn the *tragedy*. The days, months and years following September 11th brought a degree of *chaos* to our lives and I need to reflect upon the ways we reacted to or even exacerbated that *chaos*. Amidst the shadows cast by September 11th, lights of *hope* still flickered ... and I need to focus and realign myself with that *hope*. I need a commemoration that would help me put that day and the decade that followed in its proper place in my mind and in my heart ... and, then to help me look hopefully toward the decade ahead of us.

When I reached the meeting, I found my colleagues considering the same kinds of issues. We shared our stories from that day and our memories of the *tragedy*. We shared our fears and frustrations resulting from the *chaos* that is still a part of our world. We shared what that day means to us some ten years later and cautiously expressed our *hopes* for the future. We found ourselves beginning the valuable and sacred work of, together, imagining what a commemoration of September 11th could look like ...

... and so it is with reverence and humility that my colleagues and I invite you to join us for:

**Remembering September 11th - From Tragedy to Chaos to Hope - An Interfaith Gathering.** We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 10:00am at Montview Presbyterian Church on Montview Boulevard.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Adam Morris on behalf of my colleagues from House for All Sinners and Saints, Messiah Community Church, Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church of Denver, Northeast Denver Islamic center, Park Hill Congregational Church, Saint Thomas Episcopal Church.

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### Dr. Marcus Borg to speak at St. Andrews, September 30 and October 1!

Dr. Borg will speak at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, 9203 South University Blvd. His theme will be "Speaking Christian" (also the title of his latest book and of Sandra Hergenreder's Progressive Bible Study).

Friday, Sept 30, 7-9 pm: **"Reclaiming a Lost Language."** What are the distorting effects on Christian language caused by its literalization and the common framework of heaven-and-hell Christianity?

Saturday, Oct 1, 8:30 am -12 noon: **"Big Words and Collections of Words."** Heaven, eternal life, Kingdom of God, mercy, righteousness, peace, sacrifice... What do these words mean for a 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian?"

**What's At Stake: Two Visions of American Christianity Today.** Different understandings of Christian language create the central division within American Christianity. Is Christianity primarily a what-we-must-do-to-be-saved religion, with the promise of an afterlife as the reward? Or is it about personal transformation from a fear-based-life to a life more centered in God, and participation in God's dream for a transformed world?

You may purchase tickets online for the Friday and Saturday events at [www.st-andrew-umc.com](http://www.st-andrew-umc.com)  
Tickets will be \$15 per person for each day, or \$25 if purchased together.

## Second Wind 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year's Music/Walk/Run event on **Sunday, September 18** marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year that Second Wind Fund of Metro Denver has raised funds for **teen suicide prevention**. SWFMD provides free professional therapy, and together with community leaders and members, stands by teens during their darkest hours.

Ten years after the first fundraising walk, the 5k Music Festival will have a special anniversary celebration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Golden, CO 80401. The event will include a 5k run, 3 mile walk, 1 mile walk, an all day music festival, multiple stages featuring well-known local bands like Dotsero and Opie Gone Bad and many other activities for participants of all ages.

Get more info and register at [www.SWFMD.org](http://www.SWFMD.org)

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### Check This Out! Sandra Fischbach

Diana Butler Bass, our speaker for the October lecture series at Messiah, has studied mainline Protestant congregational vitality and come up with a new view of hope for all of us. The congregations she writes about in her book, *The Practicing Congregation, Imagining a New Old Church*, are those that have experienced renewed senses of identity, vocation and mission. She looks at all the aspects of congregational life and teaches us how to build upon those practices to shape the intentional congregation which is thriving and relevant in modern times.

We have this book and two of her other books in our library now and will be purchasing her newest title, *A People's History of Christianity*, for the series. You will want to check them out to prepare for the upcoming lectures.

The library is undergoing some work on the catalog so we are currently unable to check out materials on the computer but you can just write your name in the notebook whenever you want to borrow something. When the work is complete we will demonstrate the new program which all will find very user friendly.

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**Chair Yoga Classes at Greater Park Hill Community Center**, 2823 Fairfax on Thursdays 2-3PM. Just like regular yoga, Chair Yoga focuses on balance, stretching and breathing and uses a chair rather than a mat. Chair yoga improves balance, enhances deep breathing and relaxation, aids toning and improves circulation. Cost is \$5 a class. Call 303-388-0918 to reserve a space. See Park Hill Newsletter for more information. The class is one of the first in GPHC plans for many more offerings at their updated community building.

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### Messiah Mountain Report Duane Larson

This was a year for great improvements on God's 27 acres which God has entrusted to us. The improvements include erecting the third cross on Inspiration Point (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) which is for meditation. From this point you can see the beautiful valley below, a part of God's creation. The steps to the trail and the trail itself to Inspiration Point are now complete.

We were privileged to have an outstanding group of twelve teenagers and three adult volunteers spend five days at Messiah Mountain Retreat Center. They are a group known as Week of Hope and they came from Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and Texas. They painted the lodge exterior trim, decks, railings and steps on both the lodge and dormitory, cut down 15 trees which the Jefferson County Fire Marshal wanted removed, dug a drainage ditch, cleaned all the bunk beds, washed windows, etc., all at no cost to us (we supplied the materials). They arrived each day about 9 a.m. and departed about 3 p.m. and they always had time for their devotion period at our outdoor chapel. The young people liked the mountains and the quietness, and noted in our journal, "the best place to worship God was in our outdoor chapel and Inspiration Point." Some hope to return with their churches and families.

## Messiah Birthdays

### *in September*

*Please inform the office if you are not listed*

Joseph Sellers	1
Tammy Heid	2
Matt Stallman	2
Morgan Cain	5
Shirley Johnson	6
Vickie Mohr	10
Sue Bomar	12
Jessica McClain	12
Jacqueline Yu-Miller	17
Ryan Adams	20
Katie Anderson	20
Mary Jane Emrick	20
Jenny Prince	20
Monnie Walter	22
Linda Berry	23
Winnie Jergensen	23
Jeff Larson	23
Steven Rogers	25
Nick Schempf	25
Errol Buhr	26
Annika Buhr	27
Denise Larson	30

#### **Craft Fair**

The Going Forward team is planning to have a Craft Fair to help support Messiah Community Church. Please let Denise Larson know if you have any crafts you made or can make that you would like to contribute to the Fair. If there is enough interest and merchandise, we will hold the Fair in late October.

## Thank you!

Over the past few months, while I have been shut in by chronic shortness of breath and general weakness, I have been inundated with phone calls, cards, visits and generally great support by the people of Messiah! It is truly a wonderful and meaningful time for me.

For all the kindness and positive support and prayers, it occurs to me that the people at Messiah are acting ChristLike! For this I am deeply, and humbly grateful!

Jack Wagner

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Thank you to Pastor Wolfgang, Leah and Messiah Church members for the lovely 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination celebration for Pastor Chuck Harman held last month.

Rev. Charles & Wally Harman

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Thank you for your contributions to the 2011 Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church mission trip on behalf of four rural communities in Nicaragua and 29 mission volunteers. 887 adults and children were seen and treated in the dental, eye, women's health and general medicine clinics held in four rural school houses located in Northern Nicaragua. Layettes were diostributed to the Casa Materna in Somato and school supplies were distributed to the schools. Two houses were almost completed by mission volunteers under the supervision of a Habitat for Humanity foreman.

Plans are already in progress for the 2012 trip scheduled for July 5-16 and the group will again be collecting eyeglasses, toothbrushes and toothpaste, ball caps, vitamins and school supplies. Eyeglass donations can be left in the Lion's Club box located in the recycling area.

Jewell Wegs

#### **From the Community**

**Two new (infant) members!** A son, Emmett Charlie Hogberg was born July 13 to parents Mike and Kate Hogberg. A son, Seth Jason Larson was born July 31 to parents Jeff and Jessica Larson. We mourn the loss of Gerhard (Gary) Wieland who passed away August 13. His memorial service will be on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 11:00 a.m.

#### **Happy Hour**

*Join us for happy hour on Friday, September 16. Everyone is welcome, so we hope to see you around 6:00 PM. for food and drinks at Charlie Brown's on 10th and Grant Streets. We will be outside on the patio, weather permitting.*

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

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



## Messiah Book Club

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, Messiah Book Club decided to attend the movie *The Help*. We met at a restaurant after the movie and discussed our views. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

September's Book Club will be Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for October's Book Lecture Series, we will be reading *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by our lecture series speaker Diana Butler Bass.

We continue to meet at Susan Anderson's house at 6:00 PM, and we begin our discussions with a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book.

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## Plant Another Row

### Denise Larson

It's harvest time! If you would like to bring leftover vegetables from your garden to Church to give to the Food Bank, please bring them by any Sunday in September. Metro CareRing has been very grateful for all of the vegetables contributed by Messiah Community Church.

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## A New Ministry for Messiah

Leslie Penrose, Director of Just Hope Nicaragua, joined us at Messiah on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Following Leslie's presentation, a group of women at Messiah decided to form a new social ministry. This ministry will be the beginning of **100 Women of Hope**, a partnership of women in Nicaragua with women throughout the United States. Messiah women are calling their ministry, **Messiah's League of Hope**.

This ministry will consist of a group of 10 or more women from Messiah who will partner with the same number of women in Nicaragua. These women will share life stories and work together to support scholarships for young women as well as community projects within their neighborhoods. In addition, these women will hold each other in thought and prayer for at least one year.

Messiah women and friends of Messiah are still in the organization stage. Their next meeting is on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m..

Women from Messiah and friends are urged to join the ministry. We are looking for people who are willing to make a serious commitment of at least one year to a woman in Nicaragua. Please consider joining this new and exciting project. For more information, call or e-mail Susan Anderson.

## Messiah Women

### Church Women United Monnie Walter

Metro Denver Church Women United Fall gathering will be Friday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard.

The theme is "Living our Legacy, Driving the Movement." It will include Bible study, worship, sharing etc.

Registration of \$8.00 includes lunch. Please send registration to: Diane Hinders, 10997 E. Arkansas Ave., Aurora, Co 80012 by Friday, 9/9. Make your check payable to: CWU Metro Unit.

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## WELCA Circles

### Anna

Anna Circle will meet on Thursday, Sept. 8 at the home of Elizabeth Piester at 12:45 p.m. Call the office or see your directory for address.

### Rachel

Will not meet in September.

### Rebecca

Summer has slipped away and our first Rebecca Circle meeting of the season is September 10th at 1:00 p.m. For our first meeting, we will be at church library. The hostess is Doris Sorensen.

The summer presented us with the opportunity to put on another very successful "Jesus Leaves the Sanctuary" service. Participation in the July 10th service was especially enthusiastic and gave us all a chance to spread our ministry, thoughts, and concerns to others.

Our special meeting with Leslie Penrose from Just Hope Nicaragua on July 16th was a great follow-up for the outcome of all of your hard work in fundraising last fall. It is good to know that your efforts and generosity really do make a difference to the lives of others outside or our relatively small Messiah community. For those of you who missed the presentation, we can discuss it more at our first meeting.

It will be great to meet with all of you again soon. I am excited about what we may be able to accomplish this next year. For those of you who have not attended a Rebecca Circle Meeting, we welcome all of you. *Susan Anderson*

**The 12th Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** was held Aug. 15-19, 2011, in Orlando, Fla. The assembly included 1,025 voting members. The theme was “Freed in Christ to Serve.”

#### **Summary of Actions**

**ELCA Malaria Campaign officially launched** under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger.

**“Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” social statement adopted.**

**Review process for social statements adopted.**

**Living into the Future Together implementing resolutions adopted.**

- Churchwide Assemblies will transition from a biennial to a triennial cycle, starting after the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- The assembly also approved recommendations that focus on strengthening connections within and across the expressions and partner ministries of this church.
- Voting members of the ELCA Church Council shall include the four churchwide officers and the chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops. Thirty-three members will continue to be nominated by their synods; the council may not exceed 45 members. Additional members may be nominated by the Church Council to ensure diversity and expertise. All will continue to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.
- The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the churchwide organization will review a recommendation for ministry with mentally and physically "handi-capable" children and adults.
- The assembly invited members of the ELCA to initiate collaborative work to create and support diverse non-legislative forums.
- The assembly provided a means to continue the work assigned to the Living into the Future Together task force in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops.

**ELCA budget proposals adopted.** The assembly approved a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900, and approved a 2012 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000.

**Memorials adopted.** The assembly adopted a variety of resolutions to expand multicultural ministry, acknowledge the International Year for People of African Descent and work to prevent bullying, harassment and related violence.

- The assembly supported immigration reform and the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act.
- The assembly received memorials related to investment for positive change in Palestine.
- The assembly celebrated Lutheran Campus Ministry and farmers and ranchers.

**Constitutional amendments adopted.** The assembly moved to change ELCA governing documents related to Living into the Future Together, the redesign of the churchwide organization and other matters.

**Resolutions from the Reference and Counsel committee.** The assembly considered and approved a variety of resolutions on topics ranging from suicide prevention to confronting injustices in immigration, from youth-related matters to mission support.

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## **Introducing the Flower Power Fundraiser!**

**Sponsored by: Messiah Community Church/Going Forward**

Going Forward with a “Flower Power” Fundraiser: Top-quality perennial plants and bulbs are available to order online and face to face. Messiah Community Church/GoingForward makes 50% profit on every sale. Plants and bulbs can be shipped directly to our supporters this fall.

There are two ways to order: The face to face sales team. See Susan Anderson, Sue Edwards, Corliss Wyatt, Jodi Haller, Sandy Fischbach, Frances Sitone, Carolyn Steen-Smith, Denise Larson (call 303-388-0012 if you would like a sales kit)

Or online: [www.flowerpowerfundraising.com](http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com) Click “place order.” Fill in “Messiah Community Church/Going Forward” and press “search.” Click on web page and follow directions to order.

Please help by ordering now (October 2 is deadline ) and spreading the word to family and friends across the country.

Thanks, Patty Cordova (Chairperson of Flower Power Fundraiser)

# Messiah Calendar for September

SEPTEMBER							2011						
SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
<b>August</b>		<b>October</b>						<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6							1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>		
9:30a: Communion Worship; 10:30a: Coffee; 11:00a: Children's Homily tune-up	Labor Day, Office closed		6:30p Progressive Bible study				12:45p Anna Circle  6:30p Children's Homily tune-up				8:30a: Men's Breakfast  1p: Rebecca Circle, library		
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>17</b>		
11:00a Special 9/11 Interfaith Service at Montview Presbyterian Church. <b>No services at Messiah.</b>	7:00p Church Council meeting						11:30a OWLS  6:00 p.m. Book Club		10:00a Cottage Meeting #1  6p Happy Hour at Charlie Brown's Bar				
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>24</b>		
9:30a: Communion Worship, RALLY SUNDAY, Sunday School begins; 10:30a: Coffee;	6:30p Social Ministry Team meeting		10a: Bible Study  4:00p League of Hope mtg.  6:30p Progressive Bible Study				6:30p Cottage Meeting #2						
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>				
9:30a: Communion Worship with St. Thomas here, Sunday School; 10:30a: <b>Oktoberfest!</b> ; 11:00a Junior Youth group meeting	6:30p Cottage Meeting #3		10a: Bible Study										

## Assisting in Ministry Schedule

	Sunday 04	Sunday 11	Sunday 18	Sunday 25
<b>Assisting Min.</b> <i>(Dennis Bangtson)</i>	Dennis Bangtson	9/11	Barb Ritchen	Dennis Bangtson
<b>Lectors</b> <i>(Sue Edwards)</i>	Roger Miller	Interfaith service	Shirley Johnson	Wally Harman
<b>Laity Prayer</b> <i>(Liz Piester)</i>	Susan Krebs	at Montview Pres.	Bill Dillion	Park Gamble
<b>Children's Hom.</b> <i>(Denise Larson)</i>	TBA	9/11 Service	Park Gamble	Patty Cordova
<b>Greeters</b> <i>(Juliann Jenson)</i>	R&S Miller	No Service at MCC	Eleanor Miller	Juliann Jenson
<b>Communion Svcs.</b> <i>(Dennis Bangtson)</i>	J Krebs, S Edwards	9/11 Service	D Edwards, L Peden	C Wyatt, M Franzke
<b>Acolytes</b> <i>(Juliann Jenson)</i>	Miles Gill	No service at Messiah	Amy Wainess	Jens Jenson Martin
<b>Sunday School</b> <i>(Edu. Committee)</i>	<i>Resumes September</i>	<i>18. Teachers: Pre-K,K.</i>	<i>the Gambles; 1-3: Maria Franzke &amp;</i>	
<b>Altar Guild</b> <i>(Katie Anderson)</i>	Tammy Heid Sue Schroeder	<i>Sue &amp; Amy Wainess</i>	Katie Anderson Carolyn Steen-Smith	Dana Buhr Katie Anderson

*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 Group Ministry & Edu.+ Leah Peden  
 Pianist/Organist + Eric French  
 Operations Manager + Jim Krebs

**Web site**

[www.messiahdenver.org](http://www.messiahdenver.org)

**E-mail**

[info@messiahdenver.org](mailto: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
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Secretary, Community Communication	Marita Franzke	Marita@messiahdenver.org
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