

Messiah Messenger

Gather....Grow....Go....Spread the Good News!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever—Hebrews 13:8

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Yes, it is still Christmas folks, so don't pack up your manger scenes and Christmas trees quite yet!

Can you believe it is already 2012? Looking back, it has been quite a year for all of us. Twelve months ago Pastor Lisa and I still had no idea where we might end up after graduation...would we be in Washington, Texas, Florida, Minnesota(!)?...would there be a call?...would there be two calls? Messiah simultaneously had numerous questions regarding an uncertain future. Thankfully, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God has led us to this point together! Our future is still unknown, but we are now yoked together and ready to begin a new year filled with new beginnings and new possibilities for ministry!

I thought I would take this opportunity to briefly mention a few "new" elements or additions to our life together at Messiah. First, the New Year brings about the continued hope of a new secretary. Thankfully, at this time, Andrea Tveit is willing to serve in the role of interim secretary, and she is doing a fantastic job! However, Andrea is not able to commit to the position in a long-term capacity. So, we are still accepting applications for the position. If you know of any potential candidates PLEASE encourage them to stop by the office and pick up an application.

There is a new women's Bible study beginning January 10th. In actuality, the Bible study is not really new, but the curriculum is! The course is a lectionary based study which is developed by Augsburg Fortress. I will be leading the discussion on the 10th and plan on leading the study once a month. All are invited!

I hope to introduce a new young adults' Bible study late January/early February. One possibility for this study is to have a six week series on how Lutherans interpret the Bible. If you are interested and between the ages of 19-49 **please let me know!** *Yes, I recognize that I am a bit generous with whom I consider to be a "young" adult, but I believe we are a church full of GRACE! **No one will be asked to show proof of age at any young adult gathering.

At some point in the near future our community will be welcoming several new members! Shane and Sarah Larson and their sons Christian and Broden as well as Levi and Teal Novacek and their daughter Reese will all be joining Messiah. I will announce ahead of time what Sunday(s) they will officially be welcomed during worship!

You probably haven't forgotten already, but I'm still new too! Beginning this January I will start regularly meeting with my mutual ministry committee. The MM committee will help continue my transition into the life of the church and the community of Roseau.

These are all just a few of the new pieces of ministry that are already planned or that I've envisioned as likely possibilities. But what I'm wondering about is what possibilities do you see for ministry here at Messiah? Where is some untapped potential for service and outreach? How do you think we can better live out God's mission in the world? If you have any thoughts or ideas please let me know!

In the midst of such newness, may we take heart in the words of the writer of Hebrews, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Change is an inevitable reality of life, but within such changes we have the abiding love and presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Pastor Michael

Direct Contribution Plan —————> A New Element

One of the biggest questions surrounding the direct deposit program is, “What does a direct depositor do when the offering plate comes around”? This is a great question because the passing of the plate is a very important element of our worship service. It serves a practical purpose in that through the offering we collect the funds which enable the church to fiscally operate. But, the passing of the plate is also a powerful liturgical symbol. When we place our financial gifts in the plate we are literally *offering* something to God. I think this reality is best summarized in one of the traditional offertory prayers: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, going back to the initial question, “What does a direct depositor do when the offering plate comes around”? Well, a direct depositor could participate in this liturgical act by placing an empty offering envelope in the plate. However, that wastes envelopes and is a continued expense for the church. As a result, I am in the process of designing some generic laminated cards that identify one as a direct depositor. They can be easily picked up in the narthex each Sunday, placed in the offering plates, and reused every week.

Once these cards are completed I will notify ushers and include an announcement in the bulletin. If you are interested in joining the direct contribution plan see the information below. Pastor Lisa and I just signed up at both Moe and Messiah and it will save us over 100 checks every year!

However you choose to give, thank you for sharing your financial blessings with the church!

SERVING SCHEDULE

Holy Communion and Lay Reader Schedule

	<u>Holy Communion Servers</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
January 8	Barb Erickson, Alma Stotts, Gloria Skrutvold	Marsha Hagen
January 15	Jon & Bonnie Hagen, Marlene Nelson	Gloria Skrutvold
January 22	Dick & Diane Dorwart, Marsha Hagen	Dave Grafstrom
January 29	Kathy Howard, Cheryl Schleppebach, Ardell Snare	Aimee Wilson

January Ministry Team Schedule

Jan. 8, 2012 -	Greeters: Dave & Sharon Grafstrom Ushers: Keith & Missy Okeson, Dave & Sharon Grafstrom Coffee : Diane Hays & Sue Butler
Jan 15, 2012 -	Greeters: Chuck & JoAnne Thompson Ushers: Allen & Mary Olson, Keith & Missy Okeson Coffee: Thompson's & Olson's
Jan. 22, 2012 –	Greeters: Dave & Sharon Grafstrom Ushers: Doug & Teri Magnusson, Keith & Missy Okeson Coffee: Teri Magnusson
Jan. 29, 2012	Greeter: Eldyne Erickson, Dave Grafstrom Usher: Keith & Missy Okeson, Dave & Sharon Grafstrom Coffee: Patty Vatnsdal, Eldyne Erickson



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Roseau, Minnesota 56751

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Office email: messiah@wiktel.com

We are pleased to be able to offer the Direct Contribution Plan. Now you can have your contribution made automatically from your checking or savings account. And you won't have to change your present banking relationship to take advantage of this service.

The Direct Contribution Plan will help you in several ways.

- It saves time—fewer checks to write
- Helps meet your commitment in a convenient and timely manner—even if you're on vacation or out of town
- It saves postage
- It's easy to sign up for, easy to cancel

Here's how the Direct Contribution Plan works:

You authorize regularly schedule contributions to be made from your checking or savings account. Then, just sit back and relax. Your contributions will be made automatically on the specified day. And proof of payment will appear with your statement. The authority you give to charge your account will remain in effect until you notify us in writing to terminate authorization. The Direct Contribution Plan is dependable, flexible, convenient and easy. To take advantage of this service, complete the attached authorization form and return it to us.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT CONTRIBUTION

I authorize Messiah Lutheran Church of Roseau, MN to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the company a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution (3) days before my account is charged.

(NAME OF INSTITUTION) (BRANCH)

(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE)

(SIGNATURE) (DATE)

(PRINT NAME)

(PRINT ADDRESS)

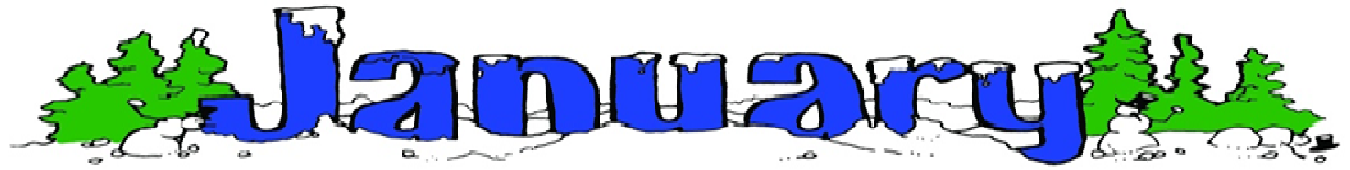
Account Number _____ Checking or _____ Savings

Financial Institution Routing Number _____

On ___ 1st of the month, or ___ the Monday of each week, I authorize Messiah Lutheran Church, 502 9th Ave NE, or P.O. Box 298, Roseau, MN, 56751, phone: 218-463-1648, to initiate electronic entries to my checking/savings account and have agreed to the terms listed on this authorization. I may revoke my authorization with you at any time by writing to the address above.

Initial payment amount: _____

YOUTH CALENDAR



2012 MESSIAH YOUTH CALENDAR

Sun, Jan. 1st: 10:00am: Worship Service

Happy New Years! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, NO STUDENT LEADERSHIP & NO YOUTH PRAISE BAND, ENJOY HOLIDAY!

Wed, Jan. 4th: 3:30pm: 4th-6th Grade Hang Time @ Messiah

5:20pm: Youth "Time Out" Supper (Served by Karla McMillin & Paula Hedlund)

6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Classes

7:00pm: Jr High (6th, 7th & 8th Graders) Summer Adventure WET & WILDerness Parent & Youth Interest/Sign Up Meeting

7:15pm: 7-12 Grade R.O.C.K. Oak Crest New Year's Celebration & Bingo Night with the residents!

Sun, Jan. 8th: 10:00am: Worship Service

11:00am: 7-12 Grade Sunday School Class

6:00pm: Student Leadership Meeting

7:00pm: Youth Praise Band

Mon, Jan. 9th: 5:30pm: Church Council

6:00pm: Youth Committee Meeting

Wed, Jan. 11th: 3:30pm: 1st-3rd Grade J.A.M.

5:20pm: Youth "Time Out" Supper (Served by Pete & Tonia Helgeson)

6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation

7:00pm: 7-12 Grade R.O.C.K. Small Group Night

Sun, Jan. 15th: 10:00am: Worship Service (Jay is Preaching)

11:00am: 7-12 Grade Sunday School

6:00pm: Student Leadership

7:00pm: Youth Praise Band

YOUTH CALENDAR

Wed, Jan. 18th: 3:30pm: 4th-6th Grade Hang Time @ Messiah
5:20pm: Youth "Time Out" Supper (Served by Katie Gunderson & Dawn Lund)
6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
7:00pm: 7-12 Grade TGI JAM @ Roseau City Center

Sun, Jan. 22nd: 10:00am: Worship Service
11:00am: 7-12 Grade Sunday School

Wed, Jan 25th: 3:30pm: 4th-6th Grade Hang Time @ Messiah
5:20pm: Youth "Time Out" Supper (We need a Family to serve for this night)
6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Classes
7:00pm: 7-12 Grade R.O.C.K. Special Activity Skating Night @ Sports Center or other Skating Rink

Sun, Jan 29th: 10:00am: Worship Service
11:00am: 7-12 Grade Sunday School

REMINDER TO ALL YOUTH, EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT 8AM IS STUDENT LED PRAYER TIME @ ROSEAU SCHOOL OLD CAFETERIA! I HOPE YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AND COME PRAY!!!!!!!

4th-6th GRADE RELEASE TIME MEETS EVERY WED, 2:15PM @ MESSIAH!

JAY WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON TUES, JAN 10TH & THURS, JAN 12TH FOR SYNOD DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

PLEASE STAY TUNED TO EMAILS & WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON JAN SCHEDULE & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & TRIPS INFO

PLEASE CONTACT JAY @ 242-2221 IF ANY QUESTIONS, THANKS!

Messiah Council Meeting

November 14, 2011

Meeting called to order by President Erickson

Members present: Pastor Michael, Duane Erickson, Paul Grafstrom, Sharon Grafstrom, Roxanne Fabian, Aimee Wilson, Jodie Janzen, Bill Jennings, Yhone Magnusson and Ray Monsrud.

Devotions were presented by Roxanne on "Ordinary People in Rage, Understanding and Slow Anger avoids Mistakes".

Motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of discussing the Audit Committee under old business by Sharon and seconded by Yhone

Pastor made a motion to accept the minutes for October with changes made to the clarification of who may conduct the marriage. seconded by Jodie

Treasurer's report: Aimee brought information on how much has been given to the building fund and how much less over last year. Also, asked for the thoughts and approval of sending out a letter informing people of the situation with their contribution statement.

Asked if we were planning on paying the synod this year the budgeted amount of \$ 2000. The consensus was in favor and she will contact Randy.

She is going to ask Randy if he could show expenses and credits on a month by month and year to year chart, this would give us a clearer picture of what our finances are.

She also, was wondering who and if there is an amount of what a person can purchase something for the church without authorization is. In the constitution it stated for the custodian, \$ 50.

Roxanne mad a motion to accept the treasurer's report and seconded by Ray

MWELCA: Thank offering service will be November 20th. Baskets going extremely well!

Evangelism:

Financial:

Parish Ed:

Stewardship: Lana Anderson and Kathy Howard met with Pastor, to throw some ideas around of how and what they should do. It was decided they will start in the spring by sending out time and talent cards along with pledge cards. Kathy Howard volunteered to remain on the committee in Sean Hoff's place, we then will only have to replace Kathy's term which is up this year.

Worship and Planning: Hanging of the Greens will start with Advent and will finish up decorating of the church Christmas Eve. November 30th, the council will serve the first Advent Supper. December 7th the youth will serve. December 14th Bethel was asked if they would be willing to serve and Pastor is waiting to hear back from them. The Men's group will serve the December 21st supper.

Property: Steve Beste was in today and inspected the Boiler and stated it is real "loud". We also need to replace a Boiler Guage. Thermostat in fellowship hall needs to be replaced. Yhone will check with Wayne Nelson if he has any extra, since he had replaced others in the past. Urinal needs working on... its leaking water. Elroy replaced bulbs in Cross but is questioning if the ballasts are in need to be replaced. Yhone will contact Sheldon Vatnsdal to put an outside light at the parsonage and fix the cross. He will also contact Beito's to fix the urinal and the half bath at the parsonage.

Nominating committee: It consists of Karen Santl, Kris Flaig, Bob Moser, Duane Erickson, Jodie Janzen and Yhone Magnusson. Jodie will contact Duane with a date to meet soon. Annual Meeting will be January 22nd at 11 a.m.

2012 Budget: We are not budgeting in East Entrance since cups have been designated for it and men's club has money to use on the project, also. All members need to look at budget and bring back ideas and suggestions next month.

Church Secretary position is open and few applications are coming in. Andrea Tveit is filling in temporarily.

Bethel had not gotten back to Pastor about whether they would be able to serve Advent supper on 12/14/2011.

Roxanne made a motion to keep the mail being delivered to the post office instead of putting up a mailbox on the street. seconded by Jodie

Audit committee has never been functional and it is something Mark Wilson feels it needs to be started as soon as possible. Motion to change Constitution to set up a functioning Audit committee was approved by council.

Devotions in December by Bill

Sharon made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Ray

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Jodie Janzen, secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who were involved in making the mid-week Advent suppers!
They were fantastic.

Thank you to all who participated in the choir cantata. It was an absolutely beautiful service.

Thank you to all who were involved in the Christmas Pageant.

What a wonderful way to share the story of Jesus' birth!

Quilting begins January 3rd at 10am at the church and continues on
Mondays from 1-4pm and Tuesdays from 10am-4pm.

Pine Grove Lutheran Church has invited us to their annual Twelfth Night bonfire and worship
on Thursday, January 5th. The evening events begin at 6:30pm at Pine Grove. Make sure you
bring your Christmas trees!

Women's bible study begins Tuesday January 10th at 9:00am at the church.

Please have your annual reports for the congregational report submitted to Andrea sometime
between January 9th-15th.

Pastor Michael will be attending a synodically required First Call Theological Education event in
Moorhead from Jan12th-Jan15th. Jay will be preaching and leading worship on the 15th.

Men's Bible Study at the Guest House continues every 3rd Thursday of the month. This
month we will gather on Jan. 19th at 6:45am.

Teal and Levi Novacek will be married at Messiah on Saturday, January 21st.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 22nd after our regular morning
worship service.

On January 22nd at 6:30pm Pastor Michael and Pastor Lisa are participating in an ecumenical
prayer service at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Roseau. All are invited to attend! This
service will conclude a nationally sponsored week of prayer for Christian Unity

Phyllis Odegaard would like to thank the Eunice Circle for Christmas caroling at her house.
You sounded great and it was very much appreciated!

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Secretary
Andrea Tveit
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Worship Service:
10:00a.m. Sundays
11:00a.m. Sunday
School

**The mission of
Messiah
Lutheran
Church is to
glorify Christ
by
nurturing our
faith, sharing
His love and
teaching His
Word.**