

# Messiah Memos

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Issue 10

December 2011  
January 2012

## A New Year of Our Lord Preparing for a Good Future

This month we celebrate God's great promise.  
The Messiah who once came will come again.  
That's what God says.

He wants us to believe it and to help others believe it too.

He wants us not to be afraid,  
and to trust his love and commitment to us in all our days  
no matter what may happen.

God glows with joy and angels sing when people dare to trust him.  
And when that happens good things appear on earth.  
Peace.

Good will among stumbling, sinful human beings  
with whom God is wonderfully pleased for Jesus' sake.

In this church that bears Messiah's name God is inviting our trust this month.  
Let it shine, God says.

In the way you celebrate Christmas.

In the care you show for people Jesus died for.  
In the strength and energy you bring to your life together in Christ  
and to the work Jesus gives you.

Look and listen for this invitation as we continue this month  
to gather commitments to the Lord's work in 2012.\*

Respond with trust and joy in God.

Stand up for Jesus,  
the One True Messiah who came and will come again  
to hold you and yours and all the world in the love of God forever.

*\*You'll find commitment cards and forms at Sunday services,  
or in the mail.*

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## *From the Pastor—*

So ends another Church Year...with a call for renewed loyalty and allegiance to Christ our King. The Fifth Grade (both public and parochial students) joyfully receive their First Communion, our congregation welcomes twenty-some new members...and the Gospel is preached, the faithful are both encouraged and consoled, and God is glorified in the lives of the saints at Messiah.

With the coming of Advent, we begin again. As usual, we find ourselves in one of the (if not THE) busiest seasons of all. There is much to do as we prepare for Christmas Day. The preparatory time seems to get more and more front-loaded--I saw a neighborhood watering hole with garlands already strung across its façade and the “holiday”-themed ads have begun to appear.

The Church originally began its observance of Advent as a kind of mirror to the Lenten preparatory period before Easter. There is no doubt that, spiritually and psychologically, a time of waiting, preparation, and anticipation increases the ‘payoff’ for most things, even though our present cultural attitudes favor more immediate gratification. Some would even say that Lent and Advent provide a ‘training’ time that helps us consider all the things we might wish to concentrate on without letting the world outside the faith set the agenda.

Advent has weathered times of neglect in the past, but among some traditionally non-liturgical folks it’s becoming more and more important. As they discover it (and good for them!) we might reinvest ourselves in this very Lutheran practice. So let’s break out the Advent Calendars, Hymns, and maybe even wear a little blue to remind ourselves that in the midst of the December madness, the

Church offers a respite—Saturday evening/Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings—as times for Advent celebration, meditation, and quiet joy as we worship the Coming King, Christ the Lord.

**Wednesday Evening Advent services begin at 7:00 pm.** A reflective service of Evening Prayer (in which the preaching will focus on the theme of “Living in Anticipation”) will contain a wealth of Advent tunes. These services can be a welcome oasis in the midst of weeks filled to overflowing with work, school, shopping, errands, and the like. Join fellow saints in this opportunity to joyously anticipate Christ’s advent—as the Child of Bethlehem, as our gracious Lord and Savior in the present, and as the promised Bridegroom for the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.



— Pr. Ramirez

## **Gourmet Prayer**

(by Priscilla R. Hinsch)

**A prayer by Ignatius of Loyola.**

### **TEACH US, LORD**

**Teach us, Lord,  
To serve You as You deserve,  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil and not to seek for rest,  
To labor and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing that  
we do Your will.  
Amen**

## Letter From Timothy Lutheran Seminary

During this year's Easter season Messiah gathered a special offering for Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Papua New Guinea. We finally received the following acknowledgment, dated August 23. We understand that photos are on the way.

23/08/11

Dear Jerome,

*Greetings from Timothy Lutheran Seminary, Birip. We are pleased to mention that the USD 1153.00 wired by Messiah Lutheran Church has been received. The amount when converted to PNG Kina is K2,461.91.*

*When that help was mentioned to the teachers and students, they were very happy and asked us to send their heartfelt thanks. The money will be used for students' food and little for the teachers. We will be able to send you a copy of the financial report at the end of this year. Also read our Report from 2009 - August 2011. On that your help has been acknowledged.*

*Thanks for your help. We value it most because that will push us further to complete this academic year. May the gracious Lord bless you and your congregation members.*

**Johnathan**

Rev. John Nathan  
Principal

Mr. Samuel Lokalyo  
Treasurer

## Faith Mission Updates

- Mission Pastor Mark Rollenhagen has been gathering important information about the mission field around Faith and making crucial contacts with community leaders, especially at the nearby public schools that serve the neighborhood.
- A Tuesday evening Scripture and prayer service is now a regular feature of the ministry and outreach at Faith.

*Continued next column*

- Pr. Rollenhagen extends his thanks to Messiah members who are offering the valuable support of their presence and participation at services and other events at Faith. Please keep it up!
- Pr. Rollenhagen has been recognized officially as an ELCA mission developer, opening the way for significant financial support from ELCA headquarters for the project.
- Heavy work commitments have led Messiah's Bill Boor to step down from the Faith Mission Board. His contribution to moving the Mission Project forward has been invaluable. Thank you, Bill!

## Advent Worship Survey Your Responses, Please!

Worship—gathering together in the name of Christ for the gifts God gives in his Word and Sacraments—is the foundation of the Church's life. As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, Messiah's pastors and lay leaders are looking for feedback about the experience of worship at Messiah. What are we doing well? What can be done better? The Psalmist writes, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Do people feel that way on their way to church at Messiah? If so, what are the strengths of what we do? If not, what steps might we take to make coming to church a thing of greater joy for a greater number of people?

As a first step in exploring these questions a brief worship survey will be distributed widely at Messiah during the weeks of Advent. You'll find copies at church. The survey will also be available at Messiah's website. Look for it, please—and please respond, remembering that our constant aim is to draw people to Christ, to build them up in Christ, and to send them into their daily lives, week after week, to serve their Lord with confidence and joy.

# Education Hour

## Serving the Lord, Serving the Lord's Church: Two Notes

### Sunday Education Hour in December and January: 9:50 to 10:40

For children—

- Sunday School. Grades Pre-K through 4. The children gather in the gym for devotions and to meet their teacher.
- Confirmation. Grades 5 through 8. Room information available at the Welcome Desk.

For teens—

- Sr. High Bible Study with Kevin Williams in the Art & Science Room, Messiah Middle School.

For adults—

- Pastor's Bible Study. In the Commons.
  - Sundays in December: St. Mark's Gospel (conclusion)
  - Sunday, January 8: Sunday Magazine, a review of events at Messiah and in the wider church.
  - Sundays in January: St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians
- Women's Bible Study. In the Meeting Room (north end, Fellowship Hall)
- Prayer Shawl Ministry. In the Music Room.

Weekday Learning Opportunities—

- Crossways, a Biblical overview. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Messiah Middle School
- Wednesday Bible Studies with Pr. Ramirez. 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Girlfriends Together in Faith. For women of all ages. Fridays when school is in session, 9:15 a.m.
- Faith at Work. 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7 a.m. At Panera's, Rocky River. With Pr. Burce
- Young Men's Bible Study. Thursdays, 8 p.m., at Faith, Lakewood. With Pr. Burce

*Note: No classes on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Weekday classes will be suspended during the week after Christmas.*

### *How can you contribute?*

Messiah is richly blessed with saints who find countless ways to contribute their time, talents, and energies to the work of Christ that we do together as a community of believers.

As we approach Christmas, take a moment or two to thank God for all the gifts he gives us through each other. Without these faithful, steady contributions our life together would not be possible.

Again, as we approach Christmas, take a moment or two to imagine new gifts that you can offer your Lord from the store of your personal strengths, abilities, skills, and inclinations. A form to help in thinking about this will appear in Advent bulletins. It will also be posted on Messiah's website ([www.messiahchurchfairview.org](http://www.messiahchurchfairview.org)). Please review it, pray about it, fill it in, and return it to the church office.

The more we invest, the greater our faith. Working together, our Lord is praised and glorified!

### ***An opportunity—a pressing need— for year-end giving***

As the calendar year draws to a close many find themselves looking for special gifts to make.

Please consider a special over-and-above gift to your church this December. Our need is pressing. While Sunday giving has been steady and strong—thanks be to God—we saw a decline this fall in other sources of income. And expenses have increased. We enter December with a significant list of bills to pay, considerably longer than usual.

As we trim expenses we find ourselves on the verge of cutting back on important work and ministry. Your extra gift will help to keep this work going. This is especially important in this transition year as we work to reverse enrollment trends at Messiah School and strengthen the outreach of our congregation as a whole. May God's good and gracious will be done among us all at Messiah Church and School.



## From Messiah School's Principal—

'Messiah School is ready to grow, and we need *your* help! Can you offer a few minutes this week to do two of the following things to help us improve and expand our ministry?

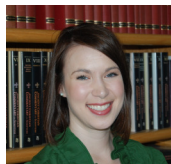
### While you're online. . .

- Send an email to [Hcasselberry@MessiahFP.org](mailto:Hcasselberry@MessiahFP.org) to tell her what *you* love about Messiah, why it's a great choice for families, and any success stories you know about Messiah students and alumni.
- Like us on [facebook](#) (Messiah School of Fairview Park), and write a facebook recommendation (in the right sidebar) to post to your wall.
- Visit our website and include a link to our website in your email signature ([www.MessiahSchoolFairview.org](http://www.MessiahSchoolFairview.org)).
- Write a positive review of our school at [www.GreatSchools.org](http://www.GreatSchools.org).
- "Like" Messiah Lutheran School at [www.PrivateSchoolReview.com](http://www.PrivateSchoolReview.com).

### When you're out and about. . .

- Volunteer for small tasks through Parent Teacher League, Marketing Team, at events, or in classrooms. Call us at 440.331.6553, and tell us the kinds of things you'd like to do.
- Pick up a *free* Messiah School yard sign from the school office!
- Invite friends/family/neighbors to Messiah events.
- Let Mrs. Casselberry know you're willing to be a parent greeter/tour guide at school events—she'll train you and make it easy

Messiah School appreciates your support. In Christ's service, Mrs. Casselberry



## Helen Casselberry Interview

Marketing Team member Jenna Peyton sat down with Messiah Principal, Helen Casselberry to learn about her background, interests, and vision for Messiah School. Below is an excerpt from the interview:

*When asked to identify challenges facing Messiah, Mrs. Casselberry notes that Messiah is ready to grow and she acknowledges the terrific families that make up the school. She would like Messiah to earn its Blue Ribbon*

*Continued next column*

*accreditation, which is a national program that recognizes consistent academic leadership and teaching practices. This will require some changes to our curriculum, most notably, implementation of a foreign language instruction. The process will not be quick, but Mrs. Casselberry will be at the helm for the process.*

*Why Messiah? Why Lutheran education? Mrs. Casselberry, who as a child attended United Methodist churches, examined more of the Lutheran theology while at St. Olaf and decided that the Lutheran denomination is where she is most comfortable theologically. In support of Lutheran education, Mrs. Casselberry notes that as Lutherans, we have the opportunity to balance celebration and preparation. We celebrate the gifts God gave us in our children and their talents by developing those talents to the fullest, and we help our children prepare to use those gifts to serve. She welcomes the opportunity to give back to God and give thanks for what He gives to us. (go to [www.messiahschoolfairview.org](http://www.messiahschoolfairview.org) to read the entire interview.)*

## 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Reenact Slaves On Underground Railroad

The FFA Camp Muskingum: Nature's Classroom Living History provided our students with first-hand experience traveling the Underground Railroad near New Philadelphia, Ohio. Led by "conductors", we marched, hid, and ran up and down the Appalachian foothills in our quest for freedom from slavery and a new life across the Ohio River. Life on the run was dangerous; we were captured by bounty hunters, sold to secret abolitionists and hidden in shelters, cellars, and ditches. Our students became slaves on the run in disguise as a traveling choir (singing a few songs to prove our charade!). After three hours on the run, we made it safely to the Ohio border! All of the students were relieved to be free to settle down, and happy for this experience. Living this historical event, even briefly, brought much for the students to reflect, write and discuss at home and school.

# Music for the Season



**Messiah School  
Christmas Choir Concert  
“Christmas Around the World”  
Sunday, December 11  
at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

This year's concert is entitled “Christmas Around the World.” Music will feature international carols along with some old favorites as we journey from Advent to Epiphany. Messiah school children, Kindergarten through 8th grade, will be performing. Come early as the church fills up quickly.

*- Eileen Marie Moore,  
School Choir Director*

**Messiah School  
Christmas Band Concert with  
Sing A Long  
Tuesday, December 13  
7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary**

The groups participating in this concert are Beginning Band, Jazz Band, some solos and ensembles and the Concert Band. We will be presenting music of the Yuletide Season, including a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long, and we will conclude our program with a simplified version of the “Hallelujah Chorus.” Everyone is invited to come join us for this special evening of music to help get us into the Christmas Spirit. Thank you.



*-Tom Hill, Messiah School Band Director*

**Dorfmeier Memorial Advent Concert  
Faith, Lakewood**

This concert will be held on **Sunday, December 4th at 3:00 p.m.** in the Faith Lutheran Church sanctuary and will feature Mary Beth Ions with the Amethyst string ensemble, and David Gooding, keyboards. A reception will follow in the Ada Doepker Lounge. You will want to reserve the date for this outstanding program. Faith Lutheran is at 16511 Hilliard Road in Lakewood.

**Young In Spirit  
Christmas Event and More**

The “*Young In Spirit*” group meets the third Monday of each month (except August/no meeting). We encourage Messiah seniors, age 55 years and older, to join with us for lunch and for an entertaining or informative program geared to your interests. We also ask those attending to bring along friends, neighbors and relatives who might also enjoy this time of Christian Fellowship. Questions, thoughts or comments may be directed to John Huetter, President at 440-260-0091 or any current Young In Spirit member.

On **Monday, December 19**, enjoy the sounds of the Christmas season with the “*Ekco Ringers Handbell Duet*”. As this will be our annual Christmas gathering, we will be providing a party tray lunch including coffee, tea and desserts. A lunch from 12:00-12:30 will be followed with a short meeting and a time to socialize. Our Christmas program entertainment will begin at 1 PM. Bring a guest!



Our January 16 meeting will begin with *your brown bag lunch* from 12:00-12:30. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. A short meeting at 12:30 will be followed by our speaker Mr. David Greenspan, Cuyahoga County Councilman for District 1 (covers Rocky River, Fairview Park, Bay Village, Westlake, Olmsted Township and Olmsted Falls). A question and answer time will follow.



## “Notes” From the Director of Music

It would be tempting to re-run last month’s article, simply to see if a second time around might engender more of a dialogue regarding the state and direction of music for worship in today’s churches. However, I’ll spare you the rerun in light of a brief mention of the forthcoming season in the church year. For those of us with a wide range of choices in service music, that is, preludes, postludes, offerings, anthems, hymns and settings of the liturgy, the Three Seasons - Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany – comprise an incredibly rich and contrasting section of the Church Year. While Christmas Eve gets the nod as the biggie of the events, we need to address the preparation for the birth of Jesus with even greater care than Christmas Eve...Christmas Eve almost takes care of itself! Likewise the season of Epiphany can be seen either as a bit of a letdown following Christmas, or a magnificent crescendo leading to Lent and Easter. As I wrote in the conclusion of last month’s article,

“Messiah is far more remarkable for its music in both the Church and the School than many of its members probably

*Continued next column*

realize. Those of us engaged in the musical life of Messiah count ourselves as richly blessed in the opportunities we have to support and adorn God’s Word through the many manifestations of music at Messiah.”

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m., preceded by a half-hour program of Christmas music with Messiah Choir, brass, timpani, and organ (7:00 and 10:00 p.m.) This is an event to share with our whole community...celebrating the birth of Jesus, God’s Son coming into a world rife with strife, with the angel’s cry, “Peace on earth, good-will to all men.”

In His name,  
David Gooding,  
Director of Music Ministries

### *Christmas Music*



## MUSIC FOR TUESDAYS AT 12:10 Fall 2011

This wonderful series of programs—a lot of music that you’ll not hear anywhere else this year continues! The programs are held in the sanctuary and are open to the public. Bring your brown bag lunch—we provide coffee, tea, and cookies. The programs conclude before 1:00 pm and are entirely informal...come when you can, and leave when you must. While a donation is not turned down, it’s not obligatory. Note: The Winter/Spring concert series will begin in February 2012.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Nov 29 –  | The Baldwin-Wallace Alumni Brass Ensemble                                     |
| Dec. 6 –  | The North Coast Consort of Viols; From the Renaissance on...                  |
| Dec. 13 – | Edith Yerger and David Betts, recorders; Music for Two to Celebrate Christmas |
| Dec. 20 – | Diane Julin Menges, soprano; Brian Kozak, guitar; The Songs of Christmas      |

# Preparing for Christmas



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Here is an opportunity to beautify our church at Christmas and honor the memory of a loved one. You may purchase one or more poinsettias. The cost is \$10.00 each. **Orders and payment are due by Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>!** Please make checks payable to Messiah Church. Contact the office with questions.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mitten Tree

*Help decorate a tree in the atrium with gifts of hats, gloves, and mittens. These donations will be distributed to area families in need in time for the Christmas season.*



## The Giant Christmas Card

To how many friends at Messiah do you plan to send a Christmas card this year? Why not greet them instead on the giant Christmas card that appears in the narthex early December and use the money you save for a contribution to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

The ELCA World Hunger program is comprehensive and sustainable and uses multiple strategies—relief, development, education and advocacy to address the root causes of hunger and poverty in our own neighborhoods and around the world.

## People Feeding People at Christmas

Help needy families have a Merrier Christmas this year by donating to People Feeding People. Money donations or non-perishable food items are welcome. Money is especially helpful as perishable food needs to be purchased on a regular basis and tends to be more healthful. Place money in an offering envelope or food items in the orange box in the atrium. All gifts will be distributed promptly to local area food banks.



*Hanging  
of the Greens*

## Fourth Annual Hanging of the Greens Festival

Sunday, December 4, 3 – 6 p.m.

All Messiah members and families are invited (and needed!) to join hands in preparation for the newborn King!

Deck the halls! Raise the trees! Hang the wreaths!

Come as you can. Leave when you must –

Music of the season will fill the building.

Can't come on Sunday afternoon? Our decorating will continue on Monday (12/5), Tuesday (12/6) and Friday (12/9) from 9 am – 2 pm.

Many helping hands make this job light.

Please RSVP to Merrie Guinther at 216-659-8785.

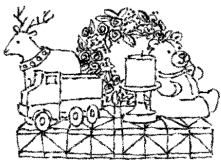


# Preparing for Christmas (Continued)

## Christmas Cupboard is Coming December 8—9 And Needs Your Help.

Christmas Cupboard is an annual event at Messiah School where the children are able to shop for Christmas presents for their family and friends. The money that is raised supports our school.

Your family's donation of 15-20 new or handmade items are needed immediately. Please leave donations in the bin marked "Christmas Cupboard" located outside of the school office. If you prefer, you may send cash or a check to "Messiah School" and we will take care of the shopping. We also need volunteers for the event.



Christmas Cupboard Will you help set up (Dec. 7) or wrap presents (Dec. 8-9) or help clean up (Dec. 9)? Contact Lisa Yesko @ 216-941-4054 or [mittens98@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mittens98@sbcglobal.net).

## Two Ways to Give to Children this Christmas

- Messiah families have been assembling boxes for the House of Miracles Kids Church on the near west side of Cleveland for several years. Last year, families assembled and donated 30 boxes of gifts to kids who regularly attend this Clark Avenue church. Our challenge this year is to assemble and collect 40 boxes for these children. Look for information outside of the church office, where you'll be able to take a child's name for whom you can shop and offer a blessed Christmas. Deadline, December 4th.
- Support a refugee family or student in a tutoring program with Building Hope In the City. Select a tag from the tree by the church office and return your gift to the box in the same area. These items are needed by Tuesday, December 6th.

## Sunday School Christmas Program

This year's Christmas program will take place once again on Christmas Eve, at the 4 p.m. Family Service. We would love to have your child involved in telling the Christmas story!



Children's  
Christmas  
Program

We also need to know as soon as possible how many children to plan on for the evening. **Parents, will you and your family be in town this Christmas, and do your children want to be involved?** Tell Mrs. Pierse at [prs423@aol.com](mailto:prs423@aol.com).

## Christmas Caroling to Those Who are Homebound

Sunday, December 18th  
1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

**Open to all who are interested in joining in on this Messiah tradition.** For many years our pastors, Messiah members and senior high youth have caroled to the homebound of Messiah Lutheran Church. This continues to be a wonderful experience for all involved. Here is your chance to join this happy Messiah event.

*Interested? Contact the church office (440) 331-0648 to volunteer.*

We need two groups of eight to ten singers each. No experience necessary—though if you enjoy singing in parts, Pr. Burce would be delighted to meet with you after services on the first two Sundays in Dec. to practice two or three carols to sing in harmony as a special treat for the folks we'll visit.





## From Our Parish Nurse

Do you know where the salt or sodium comes from in our diets? 5% is added during cooking, 6% is added while eating, 12% occurs naturally in our food, and 77% comes from prepared and processed foods. A healthy diet usually contains enough sodium without adding extra.

In ancient times, salt was a valuable commodity. It is also referred to in the Bible. Since the earliest of times it was used to season and preserve food. Salt preserves food by preventing the survival or reproduction of many bacteria and fungi. Believe it or not salt served as money in some cultures and it was highly valued. The word 'salary' was derived from the word salt.

Healthy Americans should try to limit their sodium to no more than 2,300 mg per day. Although salt is an essential nutrient, most people consume more than they need. Just one teaspoon of salt has about 2,325mg of sodium in it. Too much sodium may lead to high blood pressure, a risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Salt can cause your body to retain extra fluid which it does not need.

When buying canned and preserved food, you need to check the label to see how much sodium is in a serving. Don't be shocked if you find certain foods contain very large amounts of sodium. You may even find that one serving contains almost ½ of your daily requirement of sodium. These are foods that should be avoided or look for a different brand which contains less sodium.

## The Story of the Candy Cane

It was invented by a Christian in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At that time the government would not let people celebrate Christmas. So a candy maker made candy shaped like a crook to be a secret symbol of Jesus. The three small stripes represent the Holy Spirit. The large red stripe is for the life of Jesus, that he gave up for us. The candy was a double gift, a sweet treat and a symbol of Christmas. Have a blessed holiday season. - Nancy Mickan, Parish Nurse



## Thrivent Choice (formerly the Giving Plus Program)

Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than \$100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need. Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible. The Thrivent Choice<sup>SM</sup> program offers ways members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds.

**Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup>**—Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide. **Messiah Lutheran Church & School** is one of the organizations. If you are eligible to direct Choice you received a letter in the mail at the point you became eligible. If you are unsure of your eligibility, call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice. If you still need information, contact Darlene Waugh at [dwaugh@messiahfp.org](mailto:dwaugh@messiahfp.org) or 440-331-2405

## Employer Sponsored Matching Gift Programs

Are you employed by a company that offers matching gift benefits to accredited elementary schools or religious institutions? Messiah Church & School qualify is this type of organization. We have already received matching gifts from PNC Bank, The Sherwin Williams Foundation and The Progressive Insurance Foundation. Please check with your Human Resource Department about this benefit. Don't let this valuable benefit expire before the year ends.

## Year End Giving...For those 70+ Tax Free Gifts from your IRA Accounts

As you may have already heard from your IRA administrators, Congress has re-authorized legislation that allows you or a family member to make charitable gifts from your IRA accounts during 2011 without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. To take advantage of this you must act by December 31, 2011. Contact your IRA administrator for details.

# Youth Events—Fall 2011

## MY GROUP ~ HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS DRIVE (DECEMBER 3-4<sup>TH</sup> 2012)

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Senior High Youth members will be “homeless” for one night. Members from senior high will be sleeping outside on the great lawn in front of Messiah Church to bring awareness for the homeless men, women and children living in Cleveland. All high school students are encouraged to support this worthy cause. Spend the night in fellowship, prayer and fun. Members from the congregation are being asked to support our cause by donating a few basic essentials: men’s winter coats, scarves, gloves, hats, socks, new packages of men’s socks and underwear, travel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant). Please bring items to the Atrium On December 4<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are available to help with distribution on December 12<sup>th</sup>, please contact Kevin Williams at or [kwiliams@messiahfp.org](mailto:kwiliams@messiahfp.org)

## JR. HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last year was a success; let’s make this year’s a blast. Calling all 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders; Messiah Junior High Youth Group is hosting their annual Christmas Party at the Fairview (Gemini) Recreation Center on **Sunday, December 4 from 1:30pm-5pm**. There will be lots of food, fun games for entertainment and also swimming. Cost for this event is \$10. It covers the cost of using the facilities and also food. A permission slip for this event is available on the church’s website or at the welcome desk by the Atrium. RSVP for this event by November 30. The first 25 kids that register will receive a door price; checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church. For more information or questions, contact Kevin Williams at [kwiliams@messiahfp.org](mailto:kwiliams@messiahfp.org) or 440-331-2405.

## L.Y.O. WINTER RETREAT REGISTRATION FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YOUTH!!

“FISH- Follow in Service to Him” is the theme for this year’s gathering from January 6-8. This year’s entertainment will be “Light Switch,” along with

keynote speakers “Adam and Christine Jeske.” Registration is \$120 with a \$25 non-refundable fee. A registration form is available in the church office for anyone interested in attending. For more information please contact Kevin Williams at [kwilliams@messiahfp.org](mailto:kwilliams@messiahfp.org).

## 2012 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING & MISSION TRIP: July 14 – 23, 2012

All Senior High Youth are invited to attend our National Youth Gathering and Mission Trip next summer in New Orleans. Already 26 youth are registered for this trip. Fund raising has begun, join us from the beginning. The Gathering is offered every three years, and only available to senior high youth. Don’t miss out – when the space is full, registrations close. Join our group:



Katie Alai	C J McNamee
Megan Blackburn	Ally Paton
Jimmy Boothe	Robert Paulitzky
Leah Brookins	Jacob Pierse
Matt Brookins	Jason Straffen
Breanna Coreno	Nicole Swanson
Tim Coulter	Marissa Turba
Laura Flanagan	Hannah Wetzel
Isaac Fox	Danielle Wolf
Sarah Gator	Tyler Zalac
Macie Kalinowski	Izaak Zrnich
Kevin Kvasnicka	Nolan Zubin
Jacob McCaffrey	Sam Zyck

**How Do I register?** Complete the registration form; include a \$150 non-refundable registration fee payable to Messiah Church and return it to me as soon as possible. Registration forms are available on the Messiah website, [www.messiahchurchfairview.org](http://www.messiahchurchfairview.org), under the youth link, one has already been mailed to your home and additional copies are on the table in front of my desk. Contact Kevin Williams at [kwiliams@messiahfp.org](mailto:kwiliams@messiahfp.org) or with any questions. Don’t miss out on this amazing opportunity.

**Website:** [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering)

*Continued next column*

# Fundraising for National Youth Gathering

## Do You Like to Save Money? A GREAT Christmas Gift Idea

Another way our youth are working their way to New Orleans is by selling a pocket vendor card with unlimited uses until November 1, 2012. For \$10 you may purchase a card that will save you money. Here is a sample of what is coming:

**Angelo's Pizza** – Lakewood - \$2.00 off any large pizza

**Fairview Lanes** – Fairview Park – free game of bowling with the purchase of a game

**Becker's Donuts** – Fairview Park & North Olmsted - \$1 off a dozen donuts

**Subway** – Fairview Park location only – free 6 inch sub with a purchase of a 6 inch meal

**Cinnabon** – Great Northern Mall - 15% off any purchase of \$5 or more

**Denny's** – North Olmsted – 10% off your total purchase

**Cyclone Pita** – Fairview Park – 10% off your total purchase

**Dunkin Donuts** – Fairview & North Olmsted – free donut with purchase of a large coffee

**Brown Bag Burgers**—Great Northern Mall—50% off of a burger with purchase of a burger.

.....and more, 21 vendor savings in all.

These cards are available for immediate purchase. Contact Scott Straffen at 440-454-0184 for more details or to purchase a card.

## Scrap Metal Recycling Fund Raising Project at Messiah Off to a Great Start:

We have earned over \$600 by recycling scrap metal, aluminum, copper and appliances so far. **Our new no cost fund raising idea:** The first **Saturday of every month** through July, 2012, will be our collection dates from **9 am – 10:30 am**. Trucks will be at Messiah, waiting outside the atrium area for you to drop off your scrap metals. **The holidays are upon us! Save your disposable roasting pans, aluminum foil and empty cans!**

Need help transporting or need a pick up? Contact Mark Coreno at 440-823-5393 to arrange.

## Future Fundraising Event— Golf Outing

Watch for details about our Golf Outing scheduled for June 2012. This promises to be an exciting event. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Scott Straffen at 440-454-0184.



## Messiah's Fifth Annual Christmas Cookie Fundraiser

*Pick up Date: Saturday & Sunday, December 17 & 18*

This fundraiser benefits the 2012 Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip. Please complete the form below and turn it into the church office or call Trish Kvasnicka at (216) 509-1469 to place your order no later than Monday, December 12th. Each box holds a variety of homemade cookies (3-4 dozen), made by students/parishioners and will be sold for \$12. Cookies can be paid for at pick up on Saturday or Sunday.



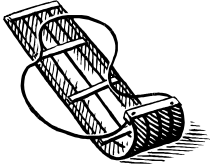
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Orders: \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: 1 order equals 3 to 4 dozen cookies)  
Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Events Coming Soon

### 2012 Messiah Family / Youth Group Toboggan Party

The Messiah Family / Youth Group Toboggan Party will be Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 6—9:00 pm at the Strongsville Chalet.

For only \$10 you may ride the slopes as many times as you like, or you can just come to hang out with your friends. Hot chocolate will be provided. We do ask that everyone brings some type of snack to share (chips, appetizer, cupcakes, brownies, etc.). All riders must be at least 42" tall and wear gloves.



Please contact Kevin Williams (440) 331-2405 or [kwilliams@messiahfp.org](mailto:kwilliams@messiahfp.org) to reserve your spot, or complete a registration form and leave it in the church office. Permission forms will be required, if an adult is NOT accompanying you. All forms are available on the Youth Group bulletin board.

Join us out at the Chalet anytime after 6:00 pm. We have the Chalet reserved for a private party, meaning that the general public will not be there. No long lines! Lots of good friends! Campfire and hot chocolate! Thrilling rides down the slopes! All the munchies you can eat! Hope you can come!

### Messiah School PTL – Saturday, February 4, 2012 – Night at the Grammys Auction Event

St. Clarence Party Center in North Olmsted. Dinner, Dessert, Cash Bar, Live Auction, Silent Auction & \$1 baskets, DJ – Dancing to all the music of the Grammy winners. We need donations for the event to be a success: *Sports tickets, vacation home, service, theatre tickets, home business, theme baskets, etc.* **Save the date! Tickets will be on sale every Sunday in January.** Donations forms are on the table outside of the church office.

Questions? Contact Joy Ellerbruch at [joyellerbruch@yahoo.com](mailto:joyellerbruch@yahoo.com).

### Shrovetfest 2012 is scheduled for February 21, 2011! *Got Shrove?*

Plans for Shrovetfest 2012 are underway. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever! Beside our delicious food, we'll be serving up fun for the kids, games for the kids at heart, a Beer tasting experience, a chance to shop the artisans at "Jackson Square" and more. We need volunteers to help with every aspect of the event...cooking, baking, kids games and crafts, decorations and vendors for "Jackson Square" shopping. etc. Would you like to help? Have a great idea? Contact me at 440 823-9392 or [gin-mark@zoominternet.net](mailto:gin-mark@zoominternet.net). You've *Got Shrove!* - Ginger Brookins

## FAMILY NEWS

### MARRIED

Daniel Demas and Carly Petrovich  
on November 5, 2011

### RECEIVED

Kelly Baumann

Adam & Kristin Boyer, with Alyce, Samuel

Charles & Sandra Duncan, with Kali, Erin

Bill & Kelly Marcus, with Joanna

Deanna McLeeson with Kevin, Sarah

Eleanor Spuhler

Mike & Bonnie Thiel,  
with Aubrey, Evan and Luke

### TRANSFERRED

Linda Weseloh Ketchum  
to St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Port Huron, Michigan

### †† IN BLESSED MEMORY††

Claudia Bartlett, 9/12/1951—10/21/2011

Messiah Lutheran Church  
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Fairview Park, OH 44126  
Phone (440) 331-2405  
www.messiahchurchfairview.org

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*Drawing in to Christ . . .  
Building up in Christ . . .  
Sending out for Christ . . .*

*To the glory of God,  
through the strength  
of the Spirit.*



## Worship Schedule:

### Advent Midweek Prayer:

Wednesdays, 7 p.m.— November 30, December 7, 14 & 21

### Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. Family Service with Sunday School Program

7:30\* and 10:30\* p.m. Candlelight Services with choir and brass and timpani

\*music and caroling begins a half hour before each evening service

### Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m. (one service only)

### New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31, 7 p.m.

### New Year's Day:

Sunday, January 1, 10:00 a.m. (one service only)

*Note: There will be no Saturday 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Service on  
Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve*