

The Messiah Messenger

Newsletter of

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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The Reverend Thomas R. Mason E-Mail masontr@verizon.net

Website: www.messiahlutheranlewistonny.org

Sunday Worship Service: 9:15AM Sunday School: 10:30AM Adult Bible Study: 10:45AM

Church Office Hours: Mon & Wed 9:00AM – 4:00 PM, Fri 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Messiah Pre-K School: Ms. Sue Ann Ross, Director Phone (716) 754-7755 or 754-8570

Carla's Latchkey Learning Center – 807-7711, Carla Fasso

Sunday School Superintendent – Terry Walck Kindermusik – Amy Teal 628-3454

FEBRUARY 2009 - #54

FROM YOUR PASTOR

And what, may we ask is darkness? Is it simply the absence of a thing, like the hole in a stocking? Shall we simply say that where there is no light, there is an empty space called darkness? I think not. Darkness is the terror that frightens. It is what shames the soul and drags us down. Darkness is what hides truth from us and causes us to lose our way as we seek the great end of holiness.

Consider the confusion that clouds our minds when we cannot decide what direction we should follow in our work or with our family. Is this not like walking in darkness.

Consider the fear we feel, when we think we will lose forever a close and trusted relationship. Is this not like being alone in some dark vale?

Consider the despair we feel when we are dismissed from a job or from a project we care about. Is this not like being plunged into a dark pit?

Consider the shame we feel, when we recognize we have by our words caused another great pain. Is this not like a dark picture we would like to ignore?

Consider the power of temptation to lure us away from upright actions we know we should take. Does this not seem like wearing temporary blinders that hide what we know to be good and true?

Consider great physical or emotional pain. Does this not feel like being enveloped in a dark cloud that obscures everything around?

Consider the impact of doubt about a relationship with another person or with God. Do we not experience this as being lost in a gray fog that obscures our journey?

Consider the anguish of loneliness. Is this not like a sleepless night that never seems to end?

Darkness is certainly not simply absence. It is the presence of temptation and evil that threatens to deprive us of our dignity and to erode our self-worth. Nor do we think of darkness as silence, even though many of the sounds of daily life are hushed at night. Darkness is blatant and insistent, pressing us to lose perspective and abandon faith.

Life-giving light, "the true light that enlightens every person," on the other hand, is small like a new-born baby and often difficult to see. Divine goodness, which to John is symbolized by light, as like water, which chooses the

lowest places, and steals along, hidden by the rushes; and we know that it is there only by the greenness that it leaves along its banks.

It is this light, small yet persistent, that can never be overcome by the darkness in our lives. This is the divine light we hear about in the Christmas story. The message that "unto a Child is born" is the announcement that the blaze of heaven penetrates the darkness of our winter and the torment of our world.

The story says that God's love is reaching out to challenge the best in us. Despite our sin God seeks to feed in us those impulses which will create a world in which families can dwell in safety, in which children can grow up strong in character and in which all of us can be lured by a hope for a future which promises both fulfillment and care in the beautiful world God has entrusted to us.

The Christmas story also discloses a divine secret. The great God who creates all that is and ever will be chooses to reveal himself in simple, unpretentious ways. He is to be found by following the light of a single star. Having revealed this divine secret the Christmas story gives us at the same time three clues for recognizing the light of God's presence, wherever it is to be found. These three clues are signs of love at work in our lives. They are joy, innocence and generosity.

The Christmas story is about the joy of new life in Jesus, the innocence of the unspoiled hearts of Mary and Joseph and the generous impulses of all who come to adore the Christ child. Where there is joy, innocence and generosity there is room in the inn.

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If anyone would like to read a Tuesday night Lenten Sermon, please see me. Thank you.

In Peace  
Pastor Mason

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb. 1 Mission Sunday, Bishop Marie Jerge,  
Synod/ELCA Missions  
Feb. 8 LCW Meeting for the Fashion Show  
after church service  
Feb. 16 Council Meeting  
Mar 29 Fashion Show

### PRE-K CORNER

We have begun January with such joy and enthusiasm...making certain we keep warm in such cold weather!

The children will be enjoying each day at school as we master more of the Pre-K skills. We continue to work on the use of pencil and markers for pre-writing practice. Cutting and gluing are part of many of the 'practice papers and projects.

We are using our 'word skills' and our thinking skills. We 'draw conclusions', we talk about sequences, we think about what 'goes together' and we talk about 'pairs'. As we realize the uniqueness of each person on this earth, we feel 'warm fuzzies' from being KIND and CARING. We learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and are formulating our dreams. LOVE is the only solution for problems. Our newest book, "Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?" is our theme for genuine/true happiness. Our THEME song is "Yes We Can Can"...what fun to try to sing this one!!!

Our colors for January are blue and white. In February we will focus on red, pink and purple, the heart shape, and 'filling our imaginary buckets'.

All-in-all...our students are FABULOUS!!!

We are having a GREAT year...and we count our blessings EVERY day!

Ms. Sue Ann Ross and Mrs. Lisa Landers.

### CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

**Ralph Austin** is now home from a lengthy stay in the hospital.

**Tara Cassidy** was in Children's Hospital and had her tonsils removed.

**Mary Hartman** is now home from the hospital. Mary was suffering from a blood clot in her leg.

**Lois Griebner** has cracked ribs, which resulted from a fall in her home.

**Savilla Kress Jr.** is home recuperating from her long awaited kidney transplant.

**Jack Morgan** is now home from the hospital.

**Kaleigh Smolen** was in Children's Hospital and had her tonsils removed.

**Andy Zucco** has a broken leg and is now home from the hospital and recuperating .

### PLEDGES TO DATE

|      |            |             |
|------|------------|-------------|
| 2008 | 62 Pledges | \$77,580.64 |
| 2009 | 54 Pledges | \$70,369.00 |

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy Anniversary to those celebrating the date of their marriage in February.

|          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 02-05-72 | Tom & Linda Adamson     |
| 02-17-01 | James & Amy Condino     |
| 02-20-82 | Jim & Sally Schoonmaker |
| 02-22-69 | Ray & Ginny Keiper      |

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our Messiah family.

David and Lynn Gierach  
5185 Bronson Dr.  
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092

We look forward to getting to know you and look forward to your participation in our many functions.

### LCW FASHION SHOW

March 29 (Save the date)

Fashions provided by the Dress Barn

Kathy Harold – Chairwoman  
Peggy Harold – Basket Auction

More details to follow

### IN THE NEWS

**Mark and Debra Perry** won the Christmas Decoration Contest for Lewiston-Porter.

**Joan Spira**, Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustee President presented Carol Rogers a prize for her winning entry of the 60th Anniversary Branding Contest.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to those celebrating their birthday in February

|       |                            |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 02-01 | Amber Fittante             |
| 02-02 | Brandon Stachowski         |
| 02-05 | Jennifer Lynn Ries         |
| 02-06 | Matthew Spatholt           |
| 02-08 | Caitlyn Christina Conibear |
| 02-08 | Chris Freeland             |
| 02-08 | Barbara Moll               |
| 02-08 | Christine Spuller          |
| 02-09 | Karen Irwin                |
| 02-11 | Michael Scott Tamul        |
| 02-12 | Marge Casper               |
| 02-12 | Jessica Mann               |
| 02-13 | Tillie Mason               |
| 02-13 | Andrew Myers               |
| 02-15 | Olaf Erickson              |

02-16 Andrew Scott Russell  
 02-16 Robin Stevens  
 02-18 Marion Irwin  
 02-18 Marilyn Peltz  
 02-18 Andrew Reed  
 02-18 Jim Schoonmaker  
 02-20 Jennifer Borowicz  
 02-21 Joan Spira  
 02-25 Megan Gee  
 02-25 Anthony Tanzini  
 02-25 Jeff Wayland  
 02-26 Nathan Nashwinter  
 02-27 Evelyn Shear

**CONFIRMATION FOR CONTEMPORARY LIVING**

10:30 AM ALL ARE WELCOME

- 1-1 New Testament Study – Calling All Disciples
- 1-8 New Testament Study – The Ministry of Jesus
- 1-15 New Testament Study – The Ministry of Jesus cont'd
- 1-22 New Testament Study - The Miracles of Jesus

**THANK YOU NOTES**

This is to convey a sincere Thank You to our Friends in Messiah for your thoughts, cards, visits, calls and prayers during my hospitalization and rehabs.

Also, your prayers and concerns for Vivian's health and welfare are gratefully thanked by both of us as she fulfills the caregiver role.

We thank God for our family at Messiah.

Ralph & Vivian Austin

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and gifts while I was in Mt. St.Mary's Hospital over the holidays. I would also like to thank everyone for their prayers and gifts to my daughter, Savilla, who just had a successful kidney transplant. Savilla Jr. received a new kidney from a live donor on January 5, 2009, in Vancouver, Canada. She is already feeling better and is happy to be free from dialysis. Check her website for the latest information:  
[www.savillashopefoundation.org](http://www.savillashopefoundation.org)

Mrs. Savilla Kress

Thank you so much for all of the generous and thoughtful gifts that you provided for one of our Lew-Port families in need again this year. The family and the entire Lew-Port staff appreciate your kindness more than we can put into words.

Lori Stockton.

Thanks to all who stayed to help de-decorate Messiah on Sunday, January 11. With all your help we finished in just 75 minutes!

A special thank you to Paul Schmidt for all his help organizing and storing the decorations, and thank you, too to the Spiras for fixing the lunch.

Sally and Joan.

I am writing to let you know how much my children enjoyed their Christmas this year. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity, your congregation provided so much for our family and gave us our Christmas. I can't tell you how grateful I am. I hope that the Lord blesses all of you and your families with a wonderful new year.

*A grateful recipient of a Christmas basket and angel tree gifts.*

Happy New Year & Greetings from Sunny Florida

Hi Everyone! We have found a new church home we think Ha! Miss all of you! Many new adjustments for us all, but nothing new about missing the Christmas season for sending out cards! Ha!

The girls are enjoying school and new friends. Nicole is still playing the flute and has joined the marching band. She had fun marching on the field for the middle school football team. Emma was disappointed that band does not start until sixth grade in the south, next year for her and the baritone. They have both continued with soccer as well. We left midway through the NY season in July and started with the FL season when we arrived. Nicole finished her travel league in November and is just starting school soccer. Emma's season continues through March. They are growing fast. Nicole is only an inch or so shorter than me and will enter high school next year.

I miss my old life and sometimes wonder what I was thinking going back to school for a 2nd career. That said, like everyone else, I enjoy my job just not all the work that goes along with it. I am teaching 3rd grade for my first year and it has been challenging. I look forward to a bit less preparation for each and every lesson next year.

Randy is also enjoying his busy work schedule and contemplating the next step of his career. Stay in or retire is always the question. His office is moving (or so they say, the date keeps getting pushed back) from St. Petersburg to the Clearwater Air Station. He looks forward to a shorter commute to work every day when they move.

We love our new home, neighborhood and surrounding community. Living around our parents and family has kept our house hopping with activity. We are halfway between Randy's family and my parents. We try to get together as often as time will allow.

Happy 2009 and may God bless you!

Love, Michelle, Randy, Nicole, Emma & Nikki

### **UPCOMING SERVICES**

Wednesday, February 25                      Ash Wednesday  
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Distribution of Ashes  
7:00 PM – Worship Service & Distribution of Ashes

Tuesday, March 3  
6:15 PM – Potluck Supper  
7:00 PM – Lenten Service

Tuesday, March 10  
6:15 PM – Potluck Supper  
7:00 PM – Lenten Service

Tuesday, March 17  
6:15 PM – Potluck Supper  
7:00 PM – Lenten Service

Tuesday, March 24  
6:15 PM – Potluck Supper  
7:00 PM – Lenten Service

Tuesday, March 31  
6:15 PM - Potluck Supper  
7:00 PM – Lenten Service

Sunday, April 5 – Distribution of Palms

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday  
6:00 PM – Observance of Christ's Pascha  
7:00 PM – Worship Service    HOLY COMMUNION

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday  
Noon – 2:00 PM – Quiet Time  
2:00 PM – Litany/Bidding Prayer

Saturday, April 11 – Holy Saturday  
5:00 PM – Easter Eve Service    Re-adornment of Altar  
Blessing of Easter Baskets

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday  
6:30 AM - Ecumenical Sunrise Service  
Fort Niagara  
8:00 AM – Worship Service-Holy Communion  
9:00 AM – Easter Breakfast  
10:00 AM – Worship Service-Holy Communion

### **LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CENTER**

4th to 8th Grade Winter Retreat  
March 6 – 8

The retreat begins with registration at 7:00 p.m. Friday night and ends at 11:30 a.m. Sunday  
\$72. per person  
Registration deadline Feb. 23

716-386-4125 lclc@alltel.net

### **OUR SYMPATHY**

Our sincere sympathy to those who lost loved ones recently.

**Andrew Amantia**, father of Richard (Judith Amantia) passed away on January 21.

**Jeanne Louise Gierach**, mother of David (Lynn) Gierach, passed away on December 9.

**Shirley M. Snyder**, Charter Member of Messiah, passed away on January 15 after a lengthy illness.

**George Wright**, father of Robert Wright and Aron Wright, passed away on December 26.

### **LCW UPDATE**

On Wednesday, Jan. 21 the LCW held a meeting whereby Joan Spira was re-elected President, Cathy Bennion was elected Treasurer and Billie Duckett was re-elected Secretary. We would like to sincerely thank Evelyn Shear for her hard work and dedication for many, many years as Treasurer for LCW.

On Sunday, January 25 the LCW presented Messiah with a check for \$1,000 to be used towards paying for utilities. \$500 was also directed to the LCW Memorial Fund which will be used towards purchasing new white paraments.

### **UNITED BAPTIST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

4800 Creek Road  
Lewiston

Is presenting the Passion play  
Conversations with Luke

March 27 – 29  
April 3 – 5  
April 10

Friday and Saturday performances 7:00 PM  
Sunday performances 3:00 PM

### **HELP FOR HEATING – HEAP**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) income guidelines have changed this year. For more information call the toll-free National Fuel HEAP hotline 1-877-443-2743.

## **LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Announces 2009 Weekends

The spring weekend will be April 17 – 19 at the Olmstead Mansion and Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. This lovely facility is located 20 miles southeast of Warren, PA in the Allegheny National Forest. The fall weekends are: September 18 – 20 at the Sequanota Retreat Center in Jennerstown, PA and October 16 – 18 at the Radisson Hotel in Sharon, PA – just an hour north of Pittsburgh. All costs including housing, meals and supplies are covered by a \$45. per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution you are given the opportunity to make at the end of the weekend. Resolve to give your marriage the priority it deserves by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend this year! Space is limited, so sign up now for the spring weekend! Go to the website:

[www.ilmeone.org](http://www.ilmeone.org) for more information or to register online, or contact Western PA Chair couple Fred & Julie Schamber at: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or 724-325-3166.

### **WE ARE PRAYING FOR**

#### **Those who are ill or shut in:**

Ralph & Vivian Austin Sandy Person Butte, Loretta Campbell, Hannah Cassidy, Martin Darmstedter, Audrey DiMatties, Terry Garner, Gordon C. Gladden, Lois Griebner, Bill Hartman, Mary Hartman, Thomas Hill, Fran Horning, Lynne Jensen, Mary & Clifford Joell, Bob & Shirley Knowles, Savilla Kress Jr., Jean Lowe, Josh Maddox, Jack Morgan, Jerry Nashwinter, Craig Peterson, Michelle Reeler, Donald David Shulenburg, Kaliegh Smolen, Ethel Thomas, Rosemary Thompson, Doris Volk, Winifred Walton, Alma Watkinson, Carol Wegener, Sharon Wittkopp, Laurie Yaw, Andy Zucco

#### **Those who are caregivers**

#### **Those who serve our country:**

Airman Jim Bane, Carol & Rene Cevaer, Sgt. Tanya Bills, Lt. Cdr. James Condino, Lt. Joseph Condino, CWO Randy Evans, Lt. Daniel Gusich, S. Sgt. Joseph Jones, Michael Lammerts, Sgt. Ben Lord, MM3 Jeremy Lymburner, Pvt. Jonathon Serianni, S. Sgt. Bailey Sutherland, S. Sgt. Ty Sutherland, Sr. Airman Mark R. Tupper, Pam Waller, T. Sgt. Melody Yates

#### **Chaplains from Upstate New York Synod:**

Greg Hager, Curt Heydt, Dan Nagle, Jean Vargo

## **MESSIAH'S BULLETIN BOARD**

### **ATTORNEY – GENERAL PRACTICE**

George S. Adamson, Esq., 777 Cayuga St., Suite #4, Lewiston, N.Y., Phone: 754-7954 gsadamson@verizon.net. Estate Planning/Elder Law, Probate and Estate Administration, and Real Estate Closings.

### **BABBSCO CARSTAR COLLISION**

Quality Collision Repair and Refinishing. 5-year nationwide warranty. Free estimates. 8624 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls, N.Y. 297-9451. Mike Duckett.

### **CARLA'S LATCHKEY LEARNING CENTER**

New York State licensed Latchkey program accepting children before and after school ages 5 to 12. Lutheran Church of the Messiah, Lewiston. Call Carla Fasso 807-7711

### **CONSTRUCTION – LANDERS & SON**

Owned by Robert Landers, 4641 Model City Road, Model City. Phone 754-2352. Bulldozing, sewer lines, water lines, septic systems, septic tanks cleaned. Free estimates.

### **DESIGN, PUBLISHING, ADVERTISING, ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

More than 25 years experience in print advertising and design; electronic media; Web design and implementation; editing and proofreading; and magazine, book, and newsletter design and publication. Also Macintosh computer troubleshooting and repair. We're in Youngstown. Visit [www.ljsquared.com](http://www.ljsquared.com) or contact Kristin or Lloyd Lathrop at [ljathrop@ljsquared.com](mailto:ljathrop@ljsquared.com) or by phone at (716) 531-9075.

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Colin L. Smith, 4698 N. 5th St., Lewiston. Phone 565-3013 or 888-806-0733. Financial Planning.

### **HONEY FOR SALE**

See Bruce Smithson at Messiah

### **HEARING AIDS AND AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Jill G. Mazur – The Hearing Aid Center, 549 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, NY, 14302 Phone 282-4130

### **HAIRDRESSER**

Janice Montie-Wayland, 1248 Cain Road, Youngstown, N.Y. 14174. Phone: home 745-7969, cell 695-8384.

**LONG TERM HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE** – Dave Stevens, 779 Scovell Drive, Lewiston, N.Y. Phone 754-4734

### **MPI MANAGING PROFIT IMPROVEMENT**

Owned by Bill Faetz, 2424 Michigan Ave., Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14305. Phone 297-2935. Computerized tax & accounting service, business plans, financing, counseling.

### **MUFFLERMAN**

Wholesale prices ... mufflers, pipes, shocks, brake service. No appointment necessary. 2517 Military Road, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 297-6611. Gary Balcom – Manager.

### **OLDE TIME BARBER SHOP**

Luxury At Its Best, Stylish Haircuts, 478 Center St., Lewiston, N.Y. Terry & Chris Collesano. Phone: 754-2505.

### **PAYNE'S CARPET OUTLET**

Family owned and operated-free estimates. Jonathon Payne – Vice-President. 2406 Military Road, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Phone 298-0455 Fax 298-0457.

### **PRE-K at MESSIAH**

Outstanding learning program for 3 – 4 year olds. Classes Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Ms. Sue Ann Ross, Director and Teacher, Mrs. Lisa Landers, Assistant Teacher. Phone 754-7755 or 754-8570

### **RED CROSS CERTIFIED BABY SITTER**

Please call Amanda Buerger at 754-1429.

### **RETIREMENT, EDUCATIONAL & ESTATE PLANNING** – Peter

D. Spira, CFP, Financial Advisor with UBS Financial Services, Inc., Buffalo, N.Y. Phone 716-849-3813 or 1-800-537-7398. [www.UBS.COM/FA/PETERSPIRA](http://www.UBS.COM/FA/PETERSPIRA).

### **RON'S PLACE FOR HAIR**

Family Hair Care, 2910 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Ron and Jean Muckley. Phone 284-2072.

## FEBRUARY LAY MINISTRY

|               | <u>ACOLYTES</u>                         | <u>ASSISTING<br/>DEACONS</u> | <u>COMMUNION<br/>DEACONS</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| February 1    | Joseph Stevens<br>Joshua Koepsell       | Joan DeVantier               | Ralph DeVantier              |
| February 8    |                                         | Robin Stevens                |                              |
| February 15   |                                         | Susan Smith                  | Evelyn Shear                 |
| February 22   |                                         | George Spira                 |                              |
| February 25   | Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM                   | Barbara Bunce                | Ted Bunce                    |
| USHERS –      | Alice & Tony Attardo, Sue & Colin Smith |                              |                              |
| GREETERS –    | Sue & Colin Smith                       |                              |                              |
| LECTOR –      | Sue Smith                               |                              |                              |
| COUNTERS –    | Sally Schoonmaker & Billie Duckett      |                              |                              |
| ALTAR GUILD – | Sally Schoonmaker & Billie Duckett      |                              |                              |

LOVE Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

**The Mission of the Lutheran Church of the Messiah is to proclaim our faith to Jesus Christ  
by daily witness through prayer, service and thanksgiving.**

***Next newsletter deadline: Sunday, February 16, 2009***