

The Messiah Messenger

Newsletter of

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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Website: www.messiahlutheranlewistonny.org

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

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

JULY 2009 - #59

FROM YOUR PASTOR

John 15:26-27 and 16:4b-15

Chapters 13 to 17 have emotional intensity and forcefulness because of the direct, personal, immediate language. Nowhere else does Jesus speak so directly of himself as “I”. Nowhere else does Jesus speak so directly to his followers as “you”. And we the readers – even at this distance in time and place – hear that “you” as “me/us”.

And just as there is an intensity to the bonding between Jesus and his followers (i.e., you and I), there is also an intensifying of the distance/separation between “us” and “them” being the world,” i.e., everyone else who isn’t us,” and sometimes, more specifically, “them” being “the Jews,” i.e., the Jewish authorities and possibly even family and friends who are now persecuting “us” because of our loyalty to and bonding with Jesus.

Whereas Chapter 15 began with a beautiful description of Jesus’ relationship with his followers – “I am the vine, you are the branches, “and” I do not call you servants any longer. I have called you friends; - and of their relationship to one another – “love one another as I have loved you,” – this text shifts to describe how it will be for his followers to be “in the world” without Jesus.

First, is the assurance that when Jesus leaves, his followers will not be left without a “pipeline” to God. However, this “pipeline” will no longer be through the priests and Temple. Rather the Spirit will come directly to Jesus’ followers. The Spirit will testify on Jesus’ behalf to his followers, and we in turn will testify to the world.

Just as the new commandment in Chapter 15 may have been a key in what set the early followers of Jesus apart as a radically transforming community:

“I call you friends” + “love one another as I have loved you” = “love one another as friends” – a new

community where social boundaries of class, blood kinship, master-slave, male-female, insider-outsider were transformed into a community of friends who looked out for each others’ good.

So too, the Advocate’s proving the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment (Verse 8) may have been a key in what set the early followers of Jesus apart as a radically transforming faith:

- The world is wrong about righteousness. Righteousness (being in right relationship with God) is not about paying debts owed to God; it is not about fulfilling obligations to God.
- The world is wrong about judgment. Judgment is not about condemned eternally; it is not about being forever cut off from God.

In John, the frame for understanding sin, righteousness and judgment is shifted from seeing God as King and ourselves as subjects, to loving one another as friends.

How do friends understand sin, righteousness and judgment?

Well, for the followers of Jesus, friendship is not inherited, it is not tied to blood kinships; no one is “born into” the church. Nor is it tied to social class; nor gender; nor “pride of place,” – being the oldest, the first, etc. etc.

- Friendship is personal, direct, and immediate.
- It is chosen. It is voluntary.
- It is mutual and egalitarian.
- It is a bond of trust and loyalty.
- It is based in truth that gives life.
- It is open. It lives in the light.
- It must be professed and testified to and lived. (Since it is inwardly voluntary, it doesn’t exist in the world unless/until it is expressed outwardly through profession and testimony and actions.)

- It is committed to seek the good of the friend – whether the friend is a neighbor, or a stranger, or an enemy.

So if we shift our frame from thinking of God as a Ruler/King to God as a friend, what is the truth about sin, righteousness, and judgment?

- The truth about sin is that God is unshakably, constantly, eternally our friend. Nothing, not even our sin breaks Gods bond and loyalty to us.
- The truth about being in right relationship with God (i.e., “righteousness) is that while nothing ever breaks God’s bond with us.
- The truth about judgment is that living in the light means bringing faults and failures out into the open where they can be healed. Judgment is not about condemnation; it is about telling the truth, healing and reconciliation.

Whatever else we may want to say on Pentecost about the Spirit, it is important to notice that Jesus always refers to the Spirit as the Spirit of truth. And in John truth is always the way, the life, the light, the joy, the friendship.

Save the Date

The date of the Men & Boys Retreat has been reserved at the Koinonia Conference Center in Highland Lakes, New York for Friday, August 28 through Sunday, August 30, 2009. The final prices will be determined by the size of the grant from Thrivent for Lutherans. I will update you as more details become available.

Portals Of Prayer

We are in need of assistance in defraying the cost of the Portals of Prayer. If you would be able to make a donation it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Choir Practice

Choir practice will begin again on August 4.

Education Events

Summer Theological Institute – Mark your calendar! Audrey West – Guest Theologian for the Summer Institute of Theology, August 2 – 7 2009 Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, NY – “PARABLES” Audrey L. S. West is adjunct professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. On the seminary’s faculty since 2000, she teaches Greek with a special emphasis on Paul,

particularly the letter to the Philippians. Her research interests are in ancient Greco-Roman conventions of friendship and the intersection between the New Testament and contemporary ethics. Prior to joining the seminary’s faculty, she was an adjunct instructor of pastoral theology at Moravian Theological Seminary. Conference Education Events – open to all interested people – lay and clergy.

Sat. Sept. 26
 All Saints, Hamburg 9:00am – 3:00pm
 Liturgy-Pr. John Scarafia (full day)
 God Matters Today-Pr. Jeff Milsten (full day)
 The Church in the Sudan-Pr. Gary Steeves (half day)
 Organic Church Model – Nate Preisinger (half day)
 Registration deadline – Monday, Sept. 21. Call or e-mail Mary Wolf at St. Paul’s Eggertsville 835-0407 or stpauls1827@juno.com
 Sat. Nov. 7 – St. Paul’s Williamsville 9 am – 3 pm - Biblical Interpretation – Pr. Werner Weinreich will chair panel
 Prs. Tim Madsen & Peter Breitsch – TBA
 Praying with All the Saints – Pr. Mary Ellen Larson
 Registration deadline – Monday, Nov. 2. Call or e-mail Mary Wolf at St. Paul’s Eggertsville 835-0407 or stpauls1827@juno.com
 Registration for Saturday events is \$5/person. Lunch is available for an additional \$5/person or you can “brown bag it”.

In Peace
 Pastor Mason

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SonRock Kids Camp

Monday, July 13-Friday, July 17
 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Volunteers needed! See Terry Walck

DATES AVAILABLE FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Jul 19, Aug 23, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 6, 20, 27

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 13–17	Vacation Bible School
July 20	Council Meeting
October 1	Set up for Bazaar
October 2	Fruits of our Labor Bazaar

**12th Annual Lutheran Charities
Golf Classic**

Chestnut Hill Country Club
Darien, NY
Friday, August 7

Golfers and Dinner
Foursome \$380.00 • If registered by July 7 \$340.00
Dinner only \$35.00

Space is limited
Registration form available in the church office.
Return registration by July 7

PRE-K CORNER

We have ended our 2008-09 school year with a wonderful feeling of accomplishment and a fantastic celebration. Our final day luncheon was a huge success. Over 100 family members and friends attended our "Pizza Luncheon" in the Parish Hall. The students received their certificate of completion for preschool and they presented a program of songs in the sanctuary. What a marvelous day...a marvelous celebration...and a marvelous turn out.

A special "THANKS" to Terry Walck, Grandma Sally and Gloria Montondo for the extra "HELP".

We are accepting applications for the Fall and still have openings. Please continue to spread the word about our program. The support from Messiah is so much appreciated.

Do stop in to the education wing and check out the new furnishings. There are several equipment items purchased by the "Latch-Key". The update is very nice.

Ms. Sue Ann Ross

Sunday School Teachers

We are in need of Sunday School Teachers for the September 2009 season. Please contact Terry Walck. Sunday School classes are at 10:30 a.m. after the worship service.

F.Y.I.

The Beacon is now open under new owners. Our new location is 2480 Military Road in the Verizon Plaza. Current hours are 10-6 Monday to Thursday and 10-8 Friday and Saturday. We're looking forward to seeing many of you again! May God richly bless all of you! In Him

Lori & Steve Stumpf
Beacon Christian Books
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
North Ridge

"St. Peter Lutheran Church and School is looking for an administrator for their after school Latch Key program. The program will begin in September 2009 and run school days from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested please send a resume to the church at: 4169 Church Road, Lockport, NY 14094. For more information, contact Patti Zastrow (Board of Christian Education Chairperson) at 434-2764.

Thank you.
Bonnie Beccue

LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Lutheran Campus Ministries is looking for a couple of college students to be "peer ministers." Peer ministers are paid a stipend in exchange for 6-8 hours of responsibility as the ambassadors of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UB (or possibly at other area college campuses). Contact Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr. at Lutheran Campus Ministries, 833-6950 or email office lcmwny.org

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Wallace Moll is home recuperating from back surgery.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy Anniversary to those celebrating the date of their marriage in July

07-02-00	Ralph & Joan DeVantier
07-03-99	George & Jennifer Adamson
07-03-04	Monica & Joseph Condino
07-04-99	Jeff & Janice Wayland
07-05-80	Frank & Kathy Mazur
07-07-07	Melissa & Roderick McGill
07-21-07	Christyn & Fred Newlin

Fruits of our Labor Bazaar

Set Up Date – October 1
Annual Bazaar –October 2

Please start thinking about the bazaar while you are doing your canning this summer. Your jams, jellies, pickles, relish etc. are a big hit and so many people look forward to them. We are also looking for your craft items i.e. knitted, crocheted, beaded, painted, etc.

We will be accepting rummage items for our "Trash & Treasure" no earlier than September 20. Please make sure these items are clean and in good condition. Volunteers will be needed to set up on Oct. 1. For more information please contact Joan Spira at 745-9924.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dr. Helen Kress had successful removal of her Thyroid at Roswell and is doing well. She is looking forward to getting her voice back to begin teaching summer classes at D'Youville College. Thank you for your cards and best wishes and prayers.

Savilla Kress

Bill Bennion and the Lewiston Kiwanis Club generously increased their donation from \$500 to \$1,000 to purchase T-shirts for the expanded Red Cross Swim Across. He and the Lewiston Kiwanis were honored at our annual meeting this past Tuesday, June 16. On behalf of the Niagara County Chapter of the American Red Cross we would like to thank Bill Bennion and the Lewiston Kiwanis for their continued support.

Robert Harold
Vice-Chairman, Niagara County
American Red Cross Board of Directors.

Turning Faces of Hunger to Faces of Hope

The Upstate New York Synod World Hunger Team is pleased to announce the totals from this past weekend's Synod Assembly appeal. The team collected a total of \$29,456.08 at the assembly. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be matching up to \$6,000.00 of that bringing the total to \$35,456.08! Thank you all for your generous support.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to those celebrating their birthday in July

07-02 Jonathan Adamson
07-02 Christopher Bennion
07-05 Jenny Adamson
07-06 Corey Gamble
07-09 Raedin Schroeder
07-10 Winifred Walton
07-11 Tara Cassidy
07-13 Jason Scarf
07-13 Peter Spira
07-18 Frank Kress Jr.
07-18 Nicholas Lowe
07-20 Alana Kivi
07-20 Chantal Kivi
07-21 Melissa Adamson
07-21 Bob Lowe
07-22 Ralph DeVantier
07-22 Alyssa Curcione
07-23 Fred Guard
07-25 Amy Mazur

07-28 Ginny Keiper
07-31 Magdalena Carroll
07-31 Frank Fulson
07-31 Breanna Maglio
07-31 Mari Louise Salada
07-31 Tom Krajcirik

CONGRATULATIONS

Devan Maglio was one of the students representing Lewiston-Porter Middle School in Cooperstown to compete in "History Days".

Alexandra Westadt was chosen as the seventh grade White Team Student of the Month for March at Lewiston-Porter Middle School.

Change The World

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering Offerings

ELCA youth need the whole church to support their service projects in New Orleans this summer. Given the immensity of the mission in New Orleans – likely the largest servant ministry ever attempted – tools and supplies must be in place when 36,000 youth arrive to do their assigned work. You can support them in their work by providing the supplies they need. All of the supplies will be left in New Orleans to benefit ongoing Gulf Coast relief efforts.

The highest priority is the need for school supplies. ELCA youth will be assembling school supply kits to be placed on the desks of 13,500 children in grades K-3 in New Orleans this fall. These children are some of the most at-risk children in the U.S. because of poverty and ongoing trauma from the hurricanes.

The ELCA Youth Gathering is a mega-sized example of "God's work. Our hands." Help ELCA youth embody God's mission on behalf of the whole church by going to the website ELCA Youth Gathering – Synod Youth Programs.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Niagara Falls Chapter

THRIVENT BUILDS IN BUFFALO

Tues. July 14; Sat. Aug. 1; Wed. Aug. 26

All workdays are 9 am - 3 pm, bring lunch
20 Guildford – off Broadway, 4 blocks W of Fillmore

Contact: Lynn Kelly 716-694-4179 or Joel Slesak
lkelly1456@roadrunner.com
Joel.Slesak@Thrivent.com

ThriventBuilds Habitat for Humanity-Buffalo needs help! Anyone can volunteer, enlist your friends! Under 18 parental waiver required. Lunch provided if you wish. Additional dates can be added for Nov. completion. Thrivent membership not required!

*"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift.
That's why it's called the Present"*

LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CENTER NURSES NEEDED

For the 2009 Summer Camping Season

LCLC is still recruiting volunteer nurses for a number of weeks this summer. If you are an RN or an LPN please consider making a difference at LCLC this summer. Room and board are provided plus one free campership per week served.

Current Open Weeks Include:

Week #3	July 12-17
Week #5	July 26-31
Week #7	August 9-14

Call LCLC at 716-386-4125 for more information.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

GARAGE SALE

If you have a good item of value and no longer have a use for it, Lutheran Campus Ministries would be happy to have it for their September 26, Garage Sale. No clothes, thank you. New and gently used items such as antiques, garden equipment, tools, small furniture, sports equipment, décor/paintings, and kitchen and household items are welcome. Please bring them to the Campus Ministry House at 4001 Main St., Eggertsville or call Jeff at 833-6950 for information.

WE ARE PRAYING FOR

Those who are ill or shut in:

Amelia Brady, Sandy Person Butte, Martin Darmstedter, Gordon C. Gladden, Jane Gurr, Kathleen Harris, Thomas Hill, Fran Horning, Bonnie Hunt, Kate Jensen, Lynne Jensen, Mary & Clifford Joell, Bob & Shirley Knowles, Helen Kress, Bob Lowe, Josh Maddox, Wallace Moll, Jerry Nashwinter, Mimi Pyne, Craig Peterson, Michelle Reeler, Donald David Shulenburg, Ethel Thomas, Rosemary Thompson, Doris Volk, Jean Walck, Winifred Walton, Alma Watkinson, 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

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CAKE DECORATING

Special order cakes for birthdays, parties, etc. Sabrina Balcom 909-5959

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

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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

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OLDE TIME BARBER SHOP

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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.

RON'S PLACE FOR HAIR

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

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Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Hyundai, Mitsubishi. Your car, Your deal, You're welcome. Kyle Faulkner, Finance Manager. 7420 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. 716-634-3000; Fax: 716-632-8394. kfaulkner@transitowne.com

JULY LAY MINISTRY

ACOLYTES

July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

ASSISTING
DEACONS

Susan Smith
Judy Condino
Barbara Bunce
Chris Guard

COMMUNION
DEACONS

Ted Casper
Ted Bunce

USHERS –
GREETERS –
LECTOR –
COUNTERS –
ALTAR GUILD –

Milly Reeves
Milly Reeves

**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, June 19, 2009