

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE/JULY 2014

Recent events in the news and in life have pointed to how much fear we experience in our lives. Sometimes we don't even realize it. Other times it can cripple us. Sometimes our fears are rather benign, at least to those who don't understand or experience the same fears (spiders and bugs, dogs, the number 13, roller coasters, and other phobias—there is a name for fear of almost anything...even fear of change!) Other fears are born of a healthy respect for the danger that can result from an encounter with that thing...lightning, water of the fast and deep kind, electricity, fire, and so on. Some pastor friends polled each other recently about the things they worry about, and most of those things amounted to fear...not having enough money to ever be able to retire, health and health care costs, family, and sermon-writing. Our city council is struggling over the details of a Non-Discrimination Ordinance, and watching the news reports on the related hearings has led me to think that most, regardless of their stance, operate on some level of fear, wondering what *might* happen if such an ordinance is passed. In other parts of the world, people live in places where they experience bloodshed and anarchy, and fear is to be expected. And I am dealing a bit with my own fear of the unknown regarding my upcoming knee replacement.

There is an acronym for fear that is **FEAR=**False Evidence Appearing **Real**. As Christians we are not called to "cower in fear" as one author says. And fear can easily become sin if we are unable to operate in faith because of those fears. Almost daily we hear stories of people who successfully conquer their fears. It seems this probably happens in a few different ways. One way is to approach their fear headlong, facing it boldly, and just doing whatever it is one hasn't done before: getting on the horse so to speak. Another is to look back and recognize how many of the things one has feared have never come to fruition and never will...and even if and when they did happen, the expected end result was not the end result: the rebellious child who dropped out of high school got their act together and started a successful business; the lean years of tomato soup and Top Ramen weren't fun, but you somehow always had enough; a re-examination of a suspicious tumor turned up benign. The examples are endless.

In the church community, and not just ours, we experience fear as well. Most churches in Montana are in decline for many different reasons. Dwindling numbers result in dwindling income for operations and mission, and councils and congregations are faced with decisions, none of them easy. Messiah is no different. I have recently heard people wondering if we will make it, or at least how long we can sustain our life here. I know, we know, we will have some decisions to make. And we need not do so in fear. Our desire is to be good stewards in this place. We are called to live in faith and trust that the God who provides will continue to do so. Our ministry might change and look different than it ever has...and that is not a bad thing...it is just a different thing. And we continue to pray and work and give and to joyfully do the things that God has called each of us to do, seeking God's guidance along each step of the way. We need not fear. Remember to keep the mission and ministry of Messiah in your prayers.





"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35

The Lutheran Center serves medical patients and their families with an affordable and comfortable home during their hospital stay or outpatient treatments. The house offers physical and emotional respite during stressful times.

Volunteers

The Lutheran Center employs a part-time house manager and chaplain and has a volunteer board of directors. Therefore the number of individuals available to complete the many tasks of our organization is limited. Volunteers are always welcome to help at The Lutheran Center. You can volunteer as an individual, or part of youth group or civic organization. Opportunities for service include:

- Preparing the quarterly newsletter for mailing
- Yard maintenance – lawn mowing in the summer, snow removal in the winter
- "Handy man" items such as repairing shelves or light fixtures
- Deep cleaning the house several times a year

There are also a number of special projects that arise throughout the year. If you would like to jump in and help make a temporary "home" for those away from their homes or to match up your skill set with our needs, call us at (406) 256-5657.

Interfaith Hospitality

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a community of 24 Billings religious congregations and over 1400 volunteers that put their faith into action to provide meals, shelter, and a safe, non-judgmental environment for families experiencing homelessness. Our congregation "hosts" take turns on a weekly rotating basis providing hospitality and basic needs to our homeless "guests."



Every family receives intensive case management support, mentoring, and guidance while they look for jobs and housing. The IHN program is about compassion and accountability, and families are expected to work hard to accomplish their goals and regain housing. Our purpose is not to shelter and feed as many people as possible, but rather to have a lasting positive impact on families that go through our program. In the words of one "graduated" mom who is now living, with her son, in her own home, "IHN was hard but it changed my life."

Interfaith Hospitality Network also has four transitional housing apartments for families in our program.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers of the Church:

Please call Pastor Kris (855-5578) or Laura Haefler with prayer requests.

Hail Damage report: We don't have the actual numbers back from the insurance company yet, but know that we have extensive damage to the roof on both the church and the garage, and further damage on the paint, gutters, stained glass windows, and so forth. Some of this work we can attend to ourselves; much of it will have to be contracted out. The council is in touch with the insurance company and will keep you posted on progress.

Don't forget **Messiah's Flea Market and Garage Sale**, scheduled for June 14th on Saturday, August 16. Please sign up with Rob Walker if you plan to reserve a flea market booth. Donated items can be stored in the garage until the sale.

Pastor Kris will be having knee replacement surgery on June 24th. For the first week or so following surgery, please call Skip at 855-5794 if you have questions about her progress or if you want to check on visiting.

We have received a lovely banner from new member Mary Folkman. It is a Luther Rose and we plan to hang it in the fellowship hall. Thanks, Mary!

Thanks to Barb Hagler for volunteering to fill an empty slot on the church council. Barb does head south for the winter, and we are looking for a willing soul to share her position during the months of December-May.

If you haven't already, please fill out the half sheet you will find here with your family birthday and anniversary information and return it to the church office.. We will be attempting to list these in the newsletter each month.

We have been experiencing a downturn in offerings in recent months and have had to draw on our line of credit. The council is working on potential solutions, but please remember to keep your tithes and offerings up to date, even if you know you will be out of town. You will be hearing more about this soon.

We have had several people that have used our fellowship hall recently tell us how they think it is one of the best venues of its size in town. If you know of anyone looking for a spot to hold a wedding anniversary, birthday party, etc. at a reasonable price, please suggest they call the church office at 656-2018 with the details. Events are approved on a case by case basis and depending on availability.

Have you noticed our Mama Duck nesting in the first planter? We expect to have ducklings any day now!



News from the Montana Synod: Milestone Moment

Thanks to you, we've hit another milestone! The ELCA Malaria Campaign has raised more than \$12 million so far-which means we're 80% of the way to our \$15 million goal. As of June 2, The Montana Synod has raised \$137,800.15.

2013: The Numbers are In

- In Malawi, 31,000 expectant mothers received preventative malaria treatment
- In Nigeria, 2,748 nets were distributed to at-risk populations
- In Tanzania, over 13,000 people were sensitized on malaria prevention and control.
- In Uganda, 42,673 people were tested for malaria and 16,000 people received treatment after testing positive

In Zimbabwe, 4 participating clinics reported consistent declines in malaria cases since the program began
Jen Asselstine, Montana Synod Malaria Coordinator



Congratulations to Connor Blevins and Chelsey Burke on their marriage on June 21, 2014 at Messiah. We extend blessings and prayers for their life together.

Funeral Services for Helen Karell will be held graveside on Saturday, June 28, at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Helen died Thursday night, June 19, at Valley Nursing Home from complications due to a stroke. Husband Leroy is living at Valley Nursing Home, Room 308. Please keep Leroy in your prayers.



YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Valeri Kaae

Vice-President: Dave Williams

Treasurer: Chris Dale*

Secretary: Eve Brusco

Financial Secretary: Curtis Whittmeyer*

Pastor Kris Mitzman

A place of welcome where God's love is shared

Edna Mae Duncan We are here to serve you and help fulfill Messiah's call and mission. Ideas, thoughts, and concerns are always welcomed.

Barb Hagler

Willard Dale

(*) = not a council member with vote



Messiah Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. God's work. Our hands.

2939 Colton Blvd in Billings 406 656-2018

JUNE 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Synod Convention 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	2 12:45 Pinochle	3 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	4 8p Al-Anon	5 7a Women's grp 7p Council mtg	6 Bummer Family Reunion—Messiah	7 Bummer Family Reunion—Messiah
8 Kristi Bummer presides & preaches 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	9 1p LWR Quilting 7p Stamp Group	10 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	11 8p Al-Anon	12 7a Women's grp	13	14 Flea market postponed
15 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	16 12:45 Pinochle	17 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	18 8p Al-Anon	19 7a Women's grp Vino & Verses Mitzman's	20 Blevins wedding rehearsal	21 Blevins wedding and reception
22 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	23 1p LWR Quilting	24 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	25 8p Al-Anon	26 7a Women's grp	27	28
29 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	30 12:45 Pinochle					

JULY 2014

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		1 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	2 8p Al-Anon	3 7a Women's grp 7p Council mtg	4	5
6 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	7 12:45 Pinochle	8 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	9 8p Al-Anon	10 7a Women's grp	11	12 Al-Anon 10 - 3
13 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	14 1p LWR Quilting 7p Stamp Group	15 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	16 Bev Jensen 11-3 Picnic 8p Al-Anon	17 7a Women's grp	18	19
20 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	21 12:45 Pinochle	22 6:45a Men's group 11a Pastor's Text 5:45 Quilters	23 8p Al-Anon	24 7a Women's grp	25	26
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