



Messiah's Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Volume 52, Number 4

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November/December 2013

The Holiday Season Begins

Beloved in Christ,
We stand upon the cusp of the "holiday" season. Turkeys are being purchased, plans are being made, trees are being sized up, and wish lists are eagerly given to parents and grandparents. As the song says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year..." It is easy for many of us to forget all of the difficulties, all of the pain, the loss, the disappointments, the uncertainty and fear of the future that looms large in the evening news every night. It is easy for us in the Church to put on a "happy face" and sing our Christmas hymns. But what is not so easy are the words of St. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

While we may be able to pull off an artificial form of joy and gladness around the holidays, after the last turkey leftover sandwich has been grudgingly eaten, after the travelling is over, after the Christmas programs, and presents and extra services are

over, we are left with a cold, gray world. The news continues to depress and the reality of life in a sin-sick world again weighs our souls down.

But, we are called to rejoice ALWAYS, pray WITHOUT CEASING, and give thanks in ALL circumstances. And notice what the inspired Word of God says: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. We are not called to be happy to please God, but rather, we are called to live our new lives in Christ, as children of God, through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the sacrifice He made for us, once for all upon the cross, given in the means of grace, Baptism, Holy Absolution and the Lord's Supper, all a free gift without any merit or worthiness in ourselves.

It seems a tall order to fill, rejoicing always, praying without ceasing and giving thanks in all circumstances. But it is not our order to fill. It is not our act of obedience to please God. It is solely by His working in us that these things are accomplished. We are called to simply fix our eyes of Christ and Him crucified. This is the source

of our constant rejoicing! Christ has died for us! This is what enlivens in us a life of constant prayer. Christ, even now, is praying for us! This is how we are able to give thanks, even and especially when things are tough: Christ is our thanksgiving!

You see, our Lord Jesus Christ did not come to make us successful in this life. He did not come to make us popular. He did not come to bring us temporal health or wealth. No, our Lord Jesus Christ did not come that we may conquer this sin-sick world, for "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). The gifts of Jesus, in which we rejoice always, which cause us to live lives of constant prayer and thanksgiving in all circumstances, are not merely temporal, but eternal. Nothing may now separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord! Oh dear Christian, rejoice at such great good news! The Lord is with you!

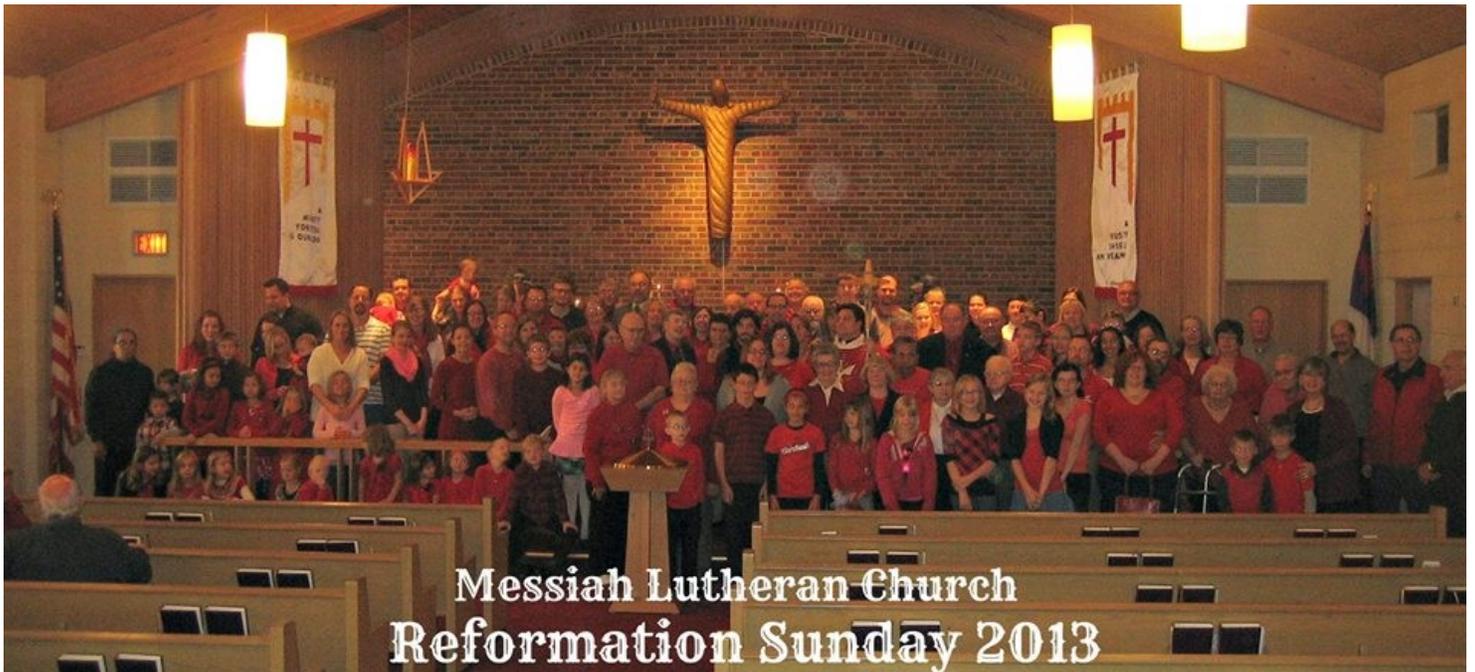
Rejoicing with you, in Christ,

Pastor

Reformation Sunday

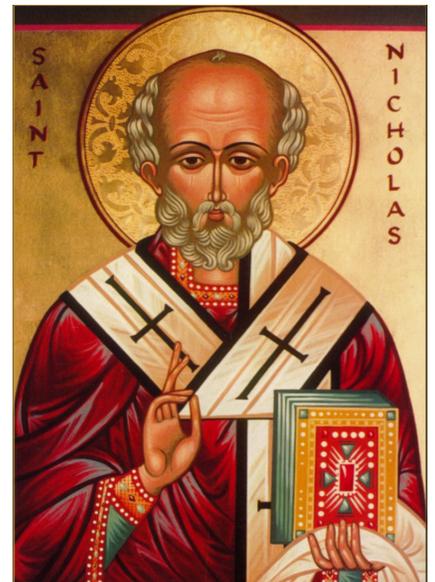
Thank you to everyone who participated in the Reformation Sunday photograph! It turned out really well! Although this picture is difficult to see in black and white, a full size color picture will be posted in the church next week for all to see. What a blessing to have such well attended church services!

Bill Dissen wanted to add, "My description of the Reformation Sunday worship service is best taken from hymn 89 of the older Lutheran Worship Book. 'How good Lord to be here. If I have left the mount and descended to the plain, I don't know it.'"



St. Nicholas Children's Program

The children of Messiah are invited to join St. Nicholas in recounting the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ! The children will practice for the program every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Join us then on Thursday, December 5 at 6 pm for the program and a special visit from St. Nicholas! Parents may address questions to Pr. Roemke, Mrs. Scholz or Mrs. Noble.



Stewardship

“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34). Notice that our Lord does not say: Where your heart is there your treasure will be also. He says the exact opposite. Hearts follow treasure, not treasure follow hearts. And this raises a question: where is your treasure?

In other words, what do you do with your money? A quick glance through your check register will tell you. It reveals where your heart is. So, where is your heart? What do you find? If you're honest, it will reveal two things. First, that your heart is not where it should be; and second, that you're heart is where it should be. You ask: How can this be? How can it be both? Isn't this a logical contradiction?

No. Because your heart is not to be in one place only. “Consider your station in life according to the Ten Commandments” This we all know from the fifth chief part in Luther's Small Catechism on Confession. Our station is our vocation. What is our station, our vocation, in life according to the Ten Commandments? Luther makes a list, but this list can be stated more generally under three categories: the Family, the State, and the Church. We have a vocation as a member of our family, of the state or society, and of the church. Vocation sets forth our relationship to those around us. Some are members of our family. Some are members of our community in society, the state. And some are members of the church, God's own family. This is where your heart should be. It should be with your family, your state, and your church. And

since hearts follow treasures, this is where your treasure should be.

So “consider your station in life according to the Ten Commandments.” Consider your vocation. You are a member of a family. You are a member of society. You are a member of the church, God's own family. And so you give your treasure to those who are placed under care according to your vocation. You give to your family to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to the members of your family. You give to the state to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to those who are fellow members of the state. You give to the church to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to those who are fellow members of the Body of Christ, God's own family.

We are beneficiaries of God's generosity in the family, the state, and the church. This, we confess in the Apostles' Creed as we learned it from the meanings in the Small Catechism. We have received from God, out of his divine goodness and mercy, from his rich and daily providence, all that we need for this body and life, and all that we need for the life that is yet to come. God gives; we receive. And because we have received what He has given so richly, we can't not help but give in like measure. This is where your treasures go. And as our Lord promises, your heart shall follow.





November Newsletter

September and October was a whirlwind of activity at Christ Lutheran Academy.

The beginning of school is always filled with getting accustomed to new routines and homework, but at CLA we always manage to have some fun too. In October, the Pre-school through 3rd grade had their first field trip of the year to Green Meadows Petting Farm. The students held chickens, milked a cow, and picked their own pumpkins.



In addition to studying farm animals, the preschool and kindergarten have been learning about bats and spiders! Ask them about what a bat family is called or how a spider makes a

web!

In Mrs. Moe's class, the first and second graders have been working hard, reading Ten Apples on Top and Ferdinand the Bull. They also have been learning about animals in science and Martin Luther in Social Studies.

The third grade has been reading the classic Paddle to the Sea. They followed the journey of a carved canoe from Canada, through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway into the sea. In language arts, third grade is working on writing personal narratives.

The fourth through eighth grades are immersed in the Middle Ages. In history they have learned about Alaric the Visigoth, Attila the Hun, and Theodore the Ostrogoth. In science they continue to learn about our solar system and in literature they are reading classics such as The Magicians Nephew and The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow, Latin, logic, grammar, and mathematics fill the rest of the school day.

In October, we also had a special guest speaker, Egyptian Coptic Priest, Fr. Rewis Awadalla who visited the school. He led the students in a discussion of the happenings in Egypt and what it means to be a Christian in Egypt at this time.



Do you have a special insight or interest that you would like to share with the students at CLA? Or are you interested in finding out more about our school day and curriculum? Please contact Debi Tauschek to arrange a visit; headmaster@christlutheranacademy.com

What is Accreditation? Accreditation is a status granted by organizations which have been authorized by state authorities to do so. Accreditation is a highly prized designation which has to be earned by the accredited schools. Accreditation is your guarantee that a school has met certain minimum standards during a thorough review by a body of its peers. It demonstrates to present and future clientele that the institution is serious about its mission.

Why? Generous parents, friends and other supporters have long contributed to the ongoing operation of the Academy. In fact, donations account for a significant fraction of the annual budget. However, to qualify for many grants and other programs, the school must be accredited.

How Can I Help? Your contribution, whatever amount it may be, helps us get started sooner. Spreading the word also would be helpful — and appreciated. Your contributions will help spread the Word of God, teaching current and future generations. Please visit <https://rally.org/CLAaccreditation#> to help us reach our goal. Thank you!



A Spooktacular Sausage

On October 25th, CLA held its Annual Sausage Dinner. It was an evening filled with food, fun and friendship. Creativity was in abundance during the costume contest portion of the evening.



Upcoming Events

December 6th: Winter Music Recital

December 11th: Sing at Brookside Care Center

January 5th: Sing at Lamb of God

Parish Planning Notes from October 2013

PARISH PLANNING - October 17, 2013, 2013 6:00 PM

President - Mike Snodgrass, Vice- President - Tyler Nehls, Activities - Allison Stephens, Treasurer - Ted Scholz, Trustees - Dennis Helmke, Stewardship - Open, Financial Secretary, - Gerry Kochman, Evangelism - Open, Secretary - Marge Harmon, Youth - Open, Education - Monica Scholz, Social Welfare - Kate Tobalsky

Present - Ted, Kate, Monica, Marge, Pastor Roemke

Pastor opened with prayer.

Ted opened the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Pastor gave his report. Attendance has improved with a high of 149 on 9-29 to a low of 98 on 10-13.

New members joined.

Visitation Have visited three shut ins at least monthly.

Baptism of Ethan Wright (son of Amy Hulke) on October 20.

Lutheran Confessions Study continues on the third Saturday at 9:30 am.

CLA regular schedule continues and has substituted several times for Pastor Smallwood.

Sunday Adult Bible Study continues with discussion of the book "What They Need To Hear" by Klemet Preus on evangelism to family members.

Hanging of the Green needs to be discussed with Debbie Davidson.

Social Welfare Kate - Food pantry runneth over. GREAT. Did Crop Walk on Sunday afternoon 13 with 25 participants raising \$402.00. Was Confirmands service day. Thinking about "care packages" for Carthage students. Exam week might be a great time.

Activities Need reminders of Pot Luck on October 27 after service. Need more main dishes. Wear RED.

Education Monica Thursday, December 5 is St. Nicholas Day. Program at 6 pm.

Trustees Fire Department made an inspection and Messiah passed.

Thursday, October 24 furnace door will be closed with cinder blocks by Four Seasons Chimney. Eric Davidson will vent chimneys out through wall and install a In Line hot water system. Will pay for itself in two years. The chimney which is in need of major repairs will no longer be used. Will remove top 13 layers of brick and will be "capped".

Financial report Ted reported are paying bills, but spending more than receipts. Need a Stewardship push.

Youth is a Higher Things Conference in Mequon this summer.

New Business Jerry Tobalsky has offered to organize a vendors day for Black Saturday, November 30.

Ted needs import from Spiritual Life in order to do 2014 budget.

Officers to be elected are President etc.

Voters' meeting is Sunday, December 8 after the service. New officers will be elected and budget approved.

Next meeting is Nov. 21 with Parish Planning at 7:15.

Parish Planning Secretary

Marge Harmon

November 2013

| November 2013 | | | | | | | December 2013 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | 29 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------|--------------|---|---|--------------|--|
| Oct 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Nov 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Daylight Savings Time 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | | Election Day | 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | Veteran's Day | | 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study | | | 9:30am 12:00pm Lutheran Confessions Study 12:00pm 1:00pm Option lunch after study group |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | | | 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Study | 6:00pm 7:00pm Spiritual Life (Messiah Lutheran Church) 7:00pm 8:00pm Parish Planning | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | | | 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Stud 6:30pm 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Se | Thanksgiving | | |

Nov 24 - 30

Nov 17 - 23

Nov 10 - 16

Nov 3 - 9

Oct 27 - Nov 2

December 2013

| December 2013 | | | | | | | January 2014 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------|---|--|--|-----------|---|
| Dec 1 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service 11:30am 12:00pm Hanging of the Greens | 2 | 3 6:30pm 7:30pm KALEA Meeting (LOG) | 4 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Stud 6:30pm 7:30pm Advent Midweek Service | 5 6:00pm 7:00pm St. Nicholas Program | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service 10:30am 11:00am Voters' Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Stud 6:30pm 7:30pm Advent Midweek Service | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | 16 | 17 | 18 8:15am 8:45am CLA Divine Service 9:00am 10:30am Women's Bible Stud 6:30pm 7:30pm Advent Midweek Service | 19 6:00pm 7:00pm Parish Planning 7:00pm 8:00pm Spiritual Life | 20 | 21 9:30am 12:00pm Lutheran Confessions Study 12:00pm 1:00pm Option lunch after study group |
| 22 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | 23 | 24 5:00pm 6:00pm Lessons & Carols 11:00pm 12:00am Midnight Service | 25 Christmas 10:00am 11:00am Christmas Day Service | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00am 10:15am Divine Service | 30 | 31 | Jan 1, 14 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Dec 29 - Jan 4 | Dec 22 - 28 | Dec 15 - 21 | Dec 8 - 14 | Dec 1 - 7 | | |

Upcoming Events at Messiah



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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sat. Nov. 16th | Lutheran Confessional Group | 9:30 a.m. |
| Thurs. Nov. 21st | Spiritual Life | 6:00 p.m. |
| | Parish Planning | 7:15 p.m. |
| Wed. Nov. 27th | Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sun. Dec. 1st | Hanging of the Greens | 11:30 a.m. |
| Tues. Dec. 3rd | KALEA Meeting at LOG | |
| Wed. Dec. 4, 11, & 18 | Midweek Advent Services | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Dec. 19th | Parish Planning | 6:00 p.m. |
| | Spiritual Life | 7:15 p.m. |
| Sat. Dec. 21st | Lutheran Confessional Group | 9:30 a.m. |
| Tues. Dec. 24th | Christmas Eve Divine Service | 5:00 p.m. |
| | Midnight Divine Service | 11:00 p.m. |
| Wed. Dec. 25th | Christmas Day Divine Service | 10:00 a.m. |

CLA Divine Service is every Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. Messiah members are welcome to attend.



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