

The Messiah *Messenger* November 2015

A monthly publication of Messiah Lutheran Church

Web: www.messiah-lutheran.us

email: pastor@messiah-lutheran.us

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Pastor Rick talking with guests



Oktoberfest Santa Cruz 2015



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Pastor Rick and Jim



Stan & Miriam

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Pastor's Ponderings
By Pastor Rice



*O worship the King,
all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love;
Our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise.*
O Worship the King LSB 804 Public domain

The month of November with Thanksgiving, and the final part of the Church concludes with "Christ the King Sunday" November 22, 2015. We celebrate with Joy the reign of our Lord and King Jesus. Last month I attended an overview of Catalyst Discipleship that was challenging.

How much do we give lip service to the reign of our Lord Jesus? This hymn beautifully points to the motive and the power to living our lives in the reign of Jesus. We live our lives in gratefulness and thanksgiving for His love and forgiveness.

God has given us much to be joyful about. In our lives, we gratefully make time to do what our Lord asks us to do and to be. The author to this hymn was born in America, but returned to England to get his doctorate and to join parliament. He was busy man. In the midst of all that he was doing he wrote 12 hymns with this hymn probably the most familiar to our ears.

I wonder what would happen if we took the words we sing seriously in our lives? This Lord Jesus is the shield and defender in the midst of the busy-ness of our lives. This King is the one who powerfully showed his mercy and love from the cross for our life and everlasting life. May we be encouraged and empowered to go the next step in being a Disciple of Christ. To be a disciple who has a heart to reach out to others and to disciple them in Christ. What a great thank offering to give our Lord Jesus, but to be a disciples who makes disciples.





Insights from Inese, DCE

Bringing in the Harvest

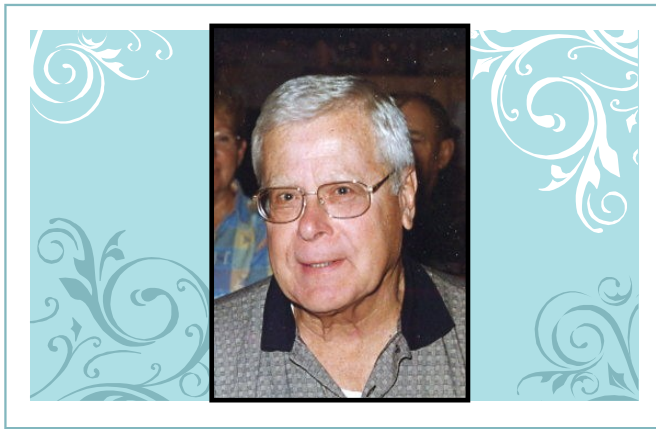
Where have the days gone? Where have the months gone? Where has another year gone? Can you believe that we are, once again, entering into the Holiday Season? In my native country Latvia we do not have a Thanksgiving Day, but the church does celebrate a Harvest Day in November. Traditionally, this was the day when farmers were called to celebrate and give thanks to God for the harvest that had been brought in that year.

I would like to suggest that Thanksgiving Day and Holiday Season in general might call us to do something similar. It calls us to look at the harvest that we are bringing in with our lives. What have our lives brought about this year? Is there a deepened relationship with God? Is there kindness, compassion and love towards our fellow human beings? Is there peace and fond memories of special times and moments spent together with our families and friends? Because, isn't that the real harvest of value? And most of it doesn't cost a thing!

I often find that today's society places a different "harvest" in front of our eyes. I still remember a commercial on TV last Holiday Season. It was advertising some kind of Thanksgiving sales. It showed a mom in the kitchen pulling out a beautiful pie out of the oven. The warmth of the kitchen, the smell of the pie, the work that mom had put into it. She carried it into the living room, but, instead of seeing a family gathered around the table, we see an empty room and turned upside down chairs because everyone has gone to get the best deals during the Thanksgiving sales. Although this is one of the more blatant examples, I find that there is a huge pressure in our society to scatter the real harvest – time spent in worship, time spent together as families, time taken to just look around and enjoy this world, kind words and smiles that we can give to people we know and don't know - and replace it with business and rush, with pressure to get the best deals and buy stuff, the pressure to buy gifts of certain price because we feel we have to and it is expected.

So, as we are approaching this Holiday Season, I want to challenge myself (and you if you are willing) to focus on the real harvest of value that cannot be bought with any kind of money and does not come with rush or pressure. I also want to challenge myself to give and notice gifts that are given to me that do not cost a thing, but are a part of the true harvest. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Harvesting!

2 Corinthians 9:10: Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.



President's Message

A very important date is approaching in the month of November. The church board has scheduled Sunday, November 15 shortly after our 10:00 a.m. worship service (approximately 11:45 a.m.) as our semi-annual voters meeting in Johnson Hall. This is the meeting for all members of the congregation to learn the current state of our church and the plans and strategies for projected future outcomes and results based on our policy based governance. The mission and ministry staff will give a presentation on their activities and actions they are planning for the coming year. In addition, we will need to vote on important issues for the upcoming Synod convention in St. Louis, MO in 2016 and nomination for President of the Synod at the same time. It is important for all members of Messiah to attend and valuable information will be offered. A light lunch will be available.

Those members, families, friends and neighbors who attended our Oktoberfest certainly had a fun-filled time. The food was awesome and overwhelmingly consumed by all attendees. Music by the Thirsty Nine had everybody toe-tapping to their rhythm. I want you to know, the preparation did not take place on the day of the event, but long before. The homemade sauerkraut was started four weeks prior to the Oktoberfest celebration and volunteers were working in the kitchen all week before the event preparing the red cabbage, German potatoes, sausage, bierocks, three different recipes for the sauerkraut in addition to other additional details of arranging tableware, tables, chairs, umbrellas, beer garden, etc. on the day before Oktoberfest. I would be remiss if I named all the volunteers and forgot someone, so I will just thank all those who helped with our very successful Oktoberfest. I want to especially thank Jonathan Mueller who headed up the committee. After the event, I offered him a bet that he spent more time organizing Oktoberfest during this period than on his regular livelihood. He did not take the bet. I want to offer my warm and sincere thanks and appreciation to Jonathan for his dedication to this event and to our Messiah Lutheran Church.



Speaking of volunteers, the seasoned volunteers are coming to the stage of decelerating their volunteer activities. What does this mean? Simply, we need new people to follow in the footsteps of our mature individuals who have been serving Messiah for many years. If they don't ask you, ask them if you can be of help. They will guide you in the process and procedures of the many activities we hold on our premises. No, I am not demanding, but a gentle nudge is in order.

God Bless†
Jim



Teacher Gretchen's Preschool Corner

I'm excited to announce the launch of ColorCycle - an amazing new program that turns used markers into energy!

* The markers will be shipped to a facility where they will be converted into clean fuel. This fuel can be used to power vehicles, heat homes, cook meals, and more!

Please help support our efforts by donating any used markers you may have around the house - even non-Crayola brands. And tell your friends!

All you need to do is drop used markers into the designated box in the Johnson Hall or in the Preschool. Thank you in advance for participating. We will be partnering with Bayview Elementary School on this exciting project. Learn more at <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle>

A big **THANK YOU** to George and David Ganschow and Leonard Damm for giving up a Saturday and making much need repairs in the preschool. Your efforts are so appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Donation Requests:

- * gently used couch for reading area
- * working refrigerator for staff office (any size)
- * small dresser for parent area

Questions? Please feel free to contact me at 458-1498 or gretchenthigpen@gmail.com to arrange pick up. Many thanks for your donation.





This year's Oktoberfest was the biggest ever!!! My heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who attended and volunteered. Obviously, a big shout out goes to my Oktoberfest Committee: Eunice Baker, Dorothy English, Erin and Shirley Busch, Marlena and John Dufresne, Julie and Larry Juell, Tim Madsen, James Morrissey, Darlene Stumpf and Gretchen Thigpen.

We are still crunching financial numbers as of this newsletter's deadline; but attendance was certainly up and revenues are much higher than 2014. We counted over 270 meal tickets collected and with an estimated 40 to 50 children (they are not issued meal tickets); with other assorted walk-ons to the campus we can safely say we had over 350 attendees!!! A complete financial report will be given at the November Voter's Meeting and will be emailed to the church membership.

So, where do we go from here? We have numerous challenges for next year's Oktoberfest Santa Cruz! Can we even have an event next year?!! Many of our committee members need more support or possibly need to be replaced. This core group of volunteers have done the majority of the work for Oktoberfest every year. If this event is to survive, we will need new committee members and volunteers.

Please think about talents that you can present to this event. We need you!!

**Jon Mueller
Event Chairperson**



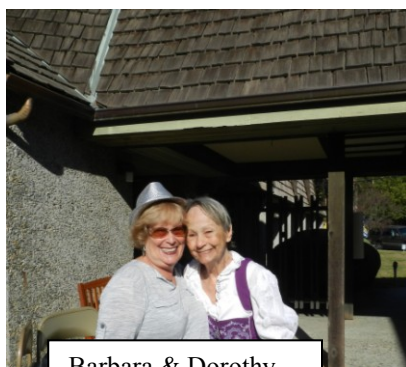
Eunice & Friend



Circle K Volunteer, Debby, Kai



John



Barbara & Dorothy



Jody & Grandson



The Thirsty Nine

Children and Youth Ministry

CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This year, we have decided to change our Christmas Play up a bit and have the performance during our Living Nativity Event on the evening of December 12. Here are some of the reasons we are making this change:

- The Nativity scene outside is the perfect background for telling the Christmas events and it is always fun to change things up a bit!
- It will add to and make our Living Nativity outreach event so much more special and give children an opportunity to serve not only people from our church, but also our Pre-school and community.



Kids and youth, please join us in bringing the events of Jesus birth in Bethlehem to life!

Schedule for Christmas play practices is the following:

Sundays, Nov.22 and 29, and Dec. 6 in the Pre-school

Friday, Dec.11 from 5.30 to 6.30pm (if necessary)

Children and youth will present the Christmas play during the Living Nativity Event on Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 pm. Children's friends are WELCOME to participate in the play, so use this as an outreach opportunity!

Please let DCE Inese know if your child is planning to participate in the play as soon as possible.



Youth Get-togethers November 13 from 6 to 9pm Messiah Lutheran Church

Pie bake for our homeless neighbors and for NYG fund-raising.

Looking for Your Best Baking Recipe

Would you be willing to help our youth fund-raise money for next summer's National Youth gathering by sharing your best recipe and helping them bring it to life through the monthly Bake Club?

Each month youth, with the help of the recipe's owner, bake a special treat that will be available through the Bake Club.

Please contact DCE Inese if you would be willing to share a recipe.

Family Advent Kit

Was made to: offer your family an easy and engaging way to celebrate Advent through lighting Advent wreath candles, sharing your "highs and lows", reading the Bible, and praying together.

Is: Easy, fun, and takes 15 minutes a week

What you get: Advent candles, simple and inspiring family worship activity, and a fun surprise!

Please sign up by e-mailing DCE Inese at inese@messiah-lutheran.us by November 15





Louisiana (Baked Goods) Purchase!

MLC Youth are going to the National Youth Gathering (NYG) in New Orleans, Louisiana next summer, and we need your help!!

- * Sign up to receive a monthly baked goods package made by the Youth!
- * Each month will be a different surprise treat made with one of our church member's yummy recipes!
- * Cost is \$20 per month, to be paid by the 10th of the month. If you pay for all seven months up front, you get one month free! (\$120 total)—a sweeter deal than the original Louisiana Purchase!
- * All proceeds will go towards our trip!
- * Goodie packages will be available for pick-up at church on the second Sunday of every month, from November through May. Arrangements can be made for delivery.
- * Make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church with NYG/Bake Club in the memo line. DO NOT place in offering plate—please give checks to Inese Dahl.
- * For any questions, please contact Cindy Gustafson at 461.1232 or svgustafsons@gmail.com



Thank you for your support!
Annika, Sarah, Erin and Kira



UCSC CAMPUS AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday, Nov.8 after 10am worship: Food for Thought.
Connect over lunch to share and hear what God is doing in our lives.



Friday, Nov.13 from 6 to 9pm: Pre-Thanksgiving Pie Bake.
Let's bake pies for a local homeless ministry. Dinner included. Joint event with MLC youth group.

Saturday, November 21 at 6pm: Pre-thanksgiving Progressive Dinner.
Visit several homes as you enjoy a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal.



Bible Conversations:
Every Tuesday at 5pm at The Abbey of Vintage Faith. Contact DCE Inese for more info.



Jon, David and Madeline



Circle K Volunteers working hard

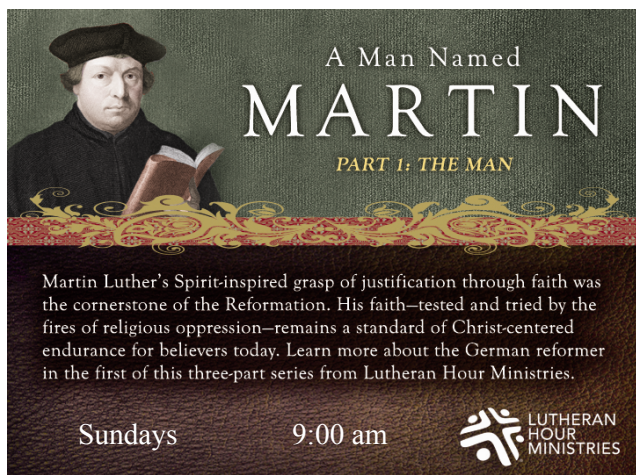


Inese and Jennifer having fun



Kevin, Trinity and Gunther

ANNOUNCEMENTS



* MLC RECYCLES *

- *Save your CA REFUND only water bottles, beer bottles, and aluminum soda & beer cans.
 - *Separate each into bags Plastic, Glass and Aluminum, and drop off in the designated container.
 - *They will be delivered to the Recycle Drop Off when the container is full.
- Money goes to our General Fund.
Help Us Help Ourselves by being creative.

If you enjoy a hobby or craft please consider sharing it with Good Shepherd. Their annual Boutique will be the second Saturday and Sunday in December (Dec 12, 13) in conjunction with the Living Nativity. All items sold must be handmade and all proceeds go to the spiritual needs of the developmentally disabled residents of Bethesda Homes. We would appreciate your donation of any handmade item including a bake sale specialty. We know we have many talented members in our church family. This is a wonderful opportunity to meaningfully share your talents.

Contact Gloria Settle, Darlene Stumpf or Sue Reeves if you would like to be a part of this year's event.

SHOPPERS This is a great chance to purchase something special for that special someone



Voters Meeting
Sunday, November 15, 2015
Following the 10:00 am service

Oktoberfest Santa Cruz 2015



Chicken Dance



Jonathan, Nathan, Viktor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST MONTH TO PARTICIPATE! DRAWING FOR A LOVELY QUILT

An anonymous donor has generously donated an heirloom quality handmade quilt with matching pillowcases as a fundraiser. The donor would like to split the proceeds between MLC and another Non-Profit.

The quilt is 67" X 67" It covers the top of a California King Size bed, comes with matching pillow cases. The colors are yellows, blues, browns & greens with a blue back. The back is as lovely as the front. The long arm quilting on it is very nice. Drawing is the first Sunday in December. See Darlene if you'd like to buy tickets.

Looking for gracious hosts for the Pre-Thanksgiving Progressive Dinner for UCSC students and young adults On Saturday, Nov.21



Main Course: 7.30pm
Dessert: 8.45pm

This is always a special and looked forward to event for students and your help is so appreciated!
Please contact DCE Inese.

Once again this year, we are adopting families from WALNUT AVENUE WOMEN'S CENTER

(Serving families that have suffered from domestic abuse)

GIVE A GIFT AND MAKE SOMEONE'S CHRISTMAS MORE JOY-FILLED!

- Pick an ornament from the tree in the Narthex starting middle of November
- Buy a gift or appropriate gift card
- Attach the ornament to the gift
- Return an un-wrapped gift to the church or pre-school by December 13. If possible, include a gift receipt.
- **OR** Write a check to Messiah Lutheran with memo, Walnut Ave. Center, and put it in the offering plate.



Help host a UCSC Finals Study Hall

December 5-8

Donate snacks: Snack bars, Chips and salsa, Starbucks mocha drinks, yogurts, dried fruit (individual packages) from Costco, homemade cookies, brownies, etc., fresh fruit, bagels and cream cheese, drinks – water, iced tea, etc.

Provide Dinner for one of the nights

Sign up for 2-3 hour time slots to help with hosting: Be present, fill up snacks.

Please sign up in the Narthex or by contacting DCE Inese at inese@messiah-lutheran.us

Announcements

Did you see any whales in September? Send us photos of what you see around town!

Julie@Messiah-lutheran.us

This is what Barbara Lee saw from West Cliff Drive!



Pastor Unavailable

Pastor Rice will be unavailable as he intends to be caring for his wife after her hip replacement surgery. Donna's surgery will be on Thursday, November 5th. He intends to be with her at the hospital and at home for the first week after she gets home.

During that time DCE Inese Dahl (831) 241-3367 and Head Elder Jonathan Mueller (831) 252-0905 will be available to assist pastoral care needs.

Your prayers and cards will be appreciated. Donna would prefer not to have visitors during this time. The office staff will be able to give you information of any special needs and Donna's status.



I spy with my little eye...

... Paul Cutt, Larry Juell, Leonard Damm, Doug Thigpen, Jonathan Mueller cutting down the Juniper tree out front that will soon damage our foundation.

AND

... Dean Okins repairing two broken windows in the garage.



Tuesday, November 03, 2015

Empowered by Grace!

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In the coming weeks, our congregation will be involved in an exciting stewardship emphasis titled ***Empowered by Grace!*** By God's grace, we are given life, and that same grace that makes life possible empowers us to live fruitful and productive lives. Grace motivates us to be loving, serving, and giving people. Growing in an intimate relationship with Jesus through Word and Sacrament, we are transformed more and more into his likeness, and we can look forward to hearing "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Under the banner of ***Empowered by Grace!***, you are invited to join us in. The weekly themes are:

- "Empowered by Grace to Know Your Purpose"
- "Empowered by Grace to Serve"
- "Empowered by Grace to Give"

During these three weeks, we will learn how God wants to use us as his channels of love, grace, and mercy. As God's instruments, we become his hands, feet, and mouth. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can be the faithful people he has called us to be. *"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). What God entrusts to us, God asks us to manage faithfully. God lovingly grants most of us families, friends, church, work, and material blessings, and, most important, the Gospel. We demonstrate our faithfulness and trustworthiness by sharing the Gospel with those near and far.

Please return the commitment form on commitment Sunday. It is our prayer that, as you attend the worship services, you will grow in your understanding of what God wants his people to be and do. May God bless your faithful stewardship of all that he entrusts to you.

Serving and working together in Christ,

Richard R. Rice
Pastor

Seeking new volunteers for a labor of love with
EATING WITH JESUS (EWJ) mission.

Our mission feeds the homeless residences of Santa Cruz Homeless Center (HSC) on weekends due to recent budget cutbacks. Together with other local churches we provide 100 meals for each Saturday Breakfast and Dinner meals.

Messiah Lutheran needs volunteers for preparation, cooking, serving and cleanup of 100 meals for each meal at HSC. Excess from each meals is covered and served the following days (Sunday, etc).

Two hours labor can:

- Cut and cook potatoes Thursday night (6-8 pm) at Messiah's Johnson Hall Kitchen for Saturday Breakfast.
- Prepare Saturday Breakfast (6-8 am) and/or Dinner (3-5 pm) meals.
- Serve Saturday Breakfast (7-9 am) and/or Dinner (4-6 pm) meals.
- Cleanup Saturday Breakfast (8-10 am) and /or Dinner ((5-7 pm) meals.

SEE JULIE OR DEAN OKINS FOR INFORMATION.

Phone: (831) 423-2512

Email: okinsjulie@sbcglobal.net



Save the Date!

Community Christmas Celebration

With: Living  *Nativity*
Saturday, December 12



**Boutique & Bake Sale! *Tree Lighting!*
**Music! *Live Animals! *Hot cider!*
**Children's crafts!*
**Caroling by Candlelight*

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>*Boutique & Bake Sale,</i> | <i>3:00pm - 7:30pm</i> |
| <i>*Live animals, crafts, music</i> | <i>5:30 pm</i> |
| <i>*Living Nativity,</i> | |
| <i>including children's play</i> | <i>6:00 pm</i> |

Accepting Cash Donations
for
Walnut Avenue Women's Center