



# Messiah's Messenger

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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January 2011

## No Separation (New Year's Eve 2010)

**I**t is appropriate that we take a little time and sit back to evaluate the year. Psalm 90 actually does a pretty good job of that for us, as we prayed it earlier. No matter how each day goes, or week, or month or year, we are one step closer to the grave. We may die soon, or it may be years from now, but either way, the death rate for human beings remains constant at 100%. Everybody, everybody dies.

But what's more, as Psalm 90 reminds us, this 100% death rate is nobody's fault but our own. Oh sure, our sinful nature is inherited, but that does not make us any less responsible for our own actions.

So when it comes to evaluations, it is very easy for us as Christians to become pretty negative. If we measure our behavior according to the Law, we will never measure up. That's what the Law does. It shows us our sin.

What I want you to do tonight is to do a different kind of evaluating and measuring tonight. I want you to sit back and measure God's mercy to you this past year. Look back at all of the challenges and heartaches you faced this last year. What was the toughest road you walked? What was the thing that happened to you, or that you did, that you did not think you would get out of? Debt? Job loss? Family problems? Health loss? I'm sure there are some of you here tonight who are of the mind that 2010 can't get behind you fast enough. But

I want you to reflect on this for a minute.

Paul gets us into the groove of this in Romans. He starts us by asking the simple question, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" If God didn't spare His own Son, but gave Him over to death for us, that does put things in perspective, doesn't it? So not only does Paul tell us that God gave over His Son for us, but this means that no one can accuse you of anything, ever. Oh we still sin, that's not the point. But the point is, with God on your side, every day is a new beginning. No one can charge you. No one else can keep score or evaluate you and see how much you have failed. If God doesn't hold your sins against you, who else really matters?

Now Paul fully recognizes that challenges we face here in this life. Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, the sword, just to name a few. Our life is one of slowly dying, so it should not surprise us that these things keep coming up. But you can look at these things as but one more nail in your coffin, or you can look at them as one more evidence that God is always present with you. Which perspective do you think is going to be better, and more true for the Christian?

That is why Paul concludes with those great words. They are worth repeating here,

**37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that**

**neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Satan can't harm you. Nothing today can hurt you. Death can't defeat you. There is nothing, nothing in all of creation that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. How's that for perspective?

was another year of dying. But more importantly, 2010 was another year of God's grace and mercy shown to sinners like you and I. He gives Himself to you wholly, completely, and without fail. He will always care for you. No matter what may happen. So bring it on, 2011, we have God Himself on our side. What can man do to you? In the name of Jesus. Amen.

And now the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in true faith to life everlasting. Amen.

New Year's Eve

Messiah Lutheran Church

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn, STM

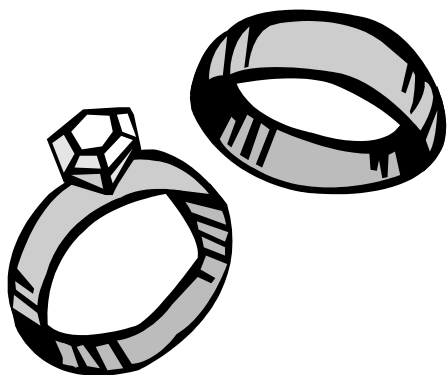
December 31, 2010

Romans 8:31b-39

# Events/ Volunteers

## Wedding Anniversaries

- 1/9 Ted & Katie Hart
- 1/12 Mark & LeAnn Varvil
- 1/17 Paul & Mary Rusch



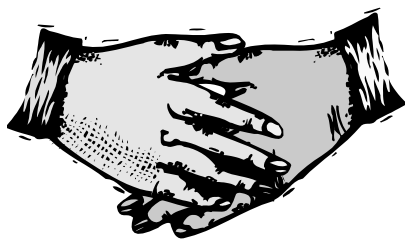
## Elders

- 1/2 Chuck Brothers
- 1/9 Don Moe
- 1/16 Dave Messersmith



## Greeters

- 1/9 Mary Siebert
- 1/16 Stacey Cleereman
- 1/23 Mary Rusch
- 1/30 Toni Marshman



## Birthdays

- 1/2 Tyler Schmidt & Victoria Weber
- 1/4 Alberta Helmke & Amy Hulke
- 1/5 Lorraine Swift & Logan Lauer
- 1/9 William Colombe
- 1/12 Sarah Billings, Kathryn & Beata Peperkorn
- 1/13 Elsie Rintamaki
- 1/14 Jeff Zuehls
- 1/15 Nyssa Zuehls
- 1/16 Kathleen Shafer
- 1/17 Evone Hagerman
- 1/18 Diane Eisenbraun
- 1/21 Eric Davidson, Inger Stahl, & William Gray
- 1/24 Hannah Davidson
- 12/28 Bonnie Griepentrog



## Baptisms

- 1/5 Joshua Jacobs
- 1/6 Bonnie Griepentrog
- 1/7 Betty Hrupka & Cara Russo-Bichsel
- 1/8 Trevor Gray
- 1/10 Louise Braya
- 1/11 Jamie Kauppila
- 1/12 Tamara Weathersby
- 1/15 Kathryn Dickey
- 1/20 Beata Peperkorn
- 1/22 Logan Lauer
- 1/25 Mary Siebert
- 1/26 Lorraine Swift
- 1/29 Anne Weber

## Ushers

- 1/2 Tyler & Austin Nehls
- 1/9 Jonathon Lutz & Mark Varvill
- 1/16 Chuck Leisten & Sam Braya
- 1/23 Mike Snodgrass & Roger Jeschke
- 1/30 Jonathan Lutz & Chuck Leisten

## Altar Guild

- Sarah & Katy Billings
- Kathy Capriotti



## Flower chart

No one is currently signed up for flowers for January.

# Founding Members Chuck & Anita Brothers

By Kris Kochman

Chuck and Anita Brothers were busy with three small children when they were among the founding members of Messiah Lutheran Church in 1961. For 50 years, the church has served as a cornerstone in their lives and their five children, as they marked baptisms and confirmations and welcomed grandchildren.

As church members begin the celebration of Messiah's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Chuck and Anita agreed to share their memories and notes from the early years of Messiah Lutheran Church.

The couple credits Anita's father, Merle Sheridan, with spurring the efforts to start the first Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Kenosha in 1960. The Brothers and the Sheridans (Anita's parents), joined Mr. and Mrs. William Goeres, David Porter and Mrs. and Mrs. Thomas E. Starr to

make plans for the new church.

"I picked the name," Anita recalled. "Several people put names in and voted on it and (Messiah Lutheran Church) was chosen."

A call for a pastor was put in on Sept. 25, 1960. The first worship service was held Feb. 15, 1961 on Ash Wednesday at the Woman's Club with 49 people present. The Rev. Bernard Rabbe from Milwaukee officiated.

"All the first people were all people who left other churches," Anita said. "They had been Missouri synod (members) years ago and wanted to come back."

The groundbreaking for the current church took place on April 8, 1962. The cornerstone laying ceremony took place on Aug. 19, 1962, following a service at the Woman's Club. A 35-car police escorted motorcade led the group to the new church building to

lay the cornerstone.

The Brothers previously attended a Lutheran Church in Racine, where their two oldest sons were baptized. Daughter Leslie was baptized at

Messiah when it was still located at the Woman's Club, while the two younger sons were baptized at the current church.

Rev. Donald G. Hanson was the first pastor called to serve Messiah Lutheran Church. He was installed on Palm Sunday, March 26, 1961, and served through 1964. He was followed by Rev. Gilbert N. Busarow (1964-69), Rev. Gordon O. Bucholz (1969-76), Rev. James L. Brassfield (1976-78), Rev. Theodore Gundlach (1978-99) and Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn (1999-present.)

The Brothers have many memories of the pastors and their families. One story they shared involved Pastor Brassfield, who was known for his highly organized manner.

Chuck said Rev. Brassfield liked everything neat and was responsible for putting up the permanent hangers in the narthex.

*This article is the first in a series that Messiah member Kris Kochman will be writing for our anniversary year. Our goal behind this series is to hear the stories of members young and old, so that we may learn more of who we are, and how that will shape how we are to move forward.*

*-Pastor Peperkorn*

**Looking Back to Look Forward**



Charles and Anita Brothers, with Brad, Kevin and Leslie. Christmas 1962

(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)*

He organized the church storage areas and would remind Anita (then church secretary) when it was time to clean the typewriter keys.

“One time, I knew he was coming over for our house for something,” Anita recalled.

She arranged a “Fibber McGee closet” filled to the brim with plastic containers in her kitchen. She asked the pastor to get something out of the cupboard for her.

“He opened it and all the plastic things fell out and he knew it was a setup,” she said with a laugh. He took the joke well.

In 1994 the members decided it was time to build an addition, including rooms for Sunday school. Classes were originally held in an old farmhouse on the southeast corner of the church property.

“The kids had to walk across even in the winter,” Chuck said. “The fellowship hall was divided up for five or six Bible classes. We didn’t have any room for Sunday school classes. We used the old farmhouse until it became rickety and falling apart.”

The 5,200 square-foot church addition created the classrooms that are currently used for Christ Lutheran Academy and Little Lambs preschool, as well as Sunday school instruction.

Chuck said members have always been willing to pitch in and help where needed at Messiah. In the early years, families would sign up for the responsibility of cleaning the church each weekend. If the church roof needed shingling, a group of men

would get together and do the job.

“We still have volunteers whenever we need something to be done,” Chuck said.

Anita volunteered her services as church secretary for two years before it became a part-time, paid position. She served as secretary for 23 years. Chuck was the first church treasurer, a long-time elder, served on the Little Lambs preschool board and helped maintain the church building. Chuck also taught Sunday School and Anita was a long-time member of the Altar Guild.

The Brothers said they are thankful for all the people that have taken on leadership roles in the church since it began – many of them now the next generation of members.

Several “sons” of the congregation have entered the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod as pastors, including the Rev. Raymond Schiefelbein (ordained in 1971), Rev. Steve Hulke (ordained in 1987) and Rev. Steve Voigt (ordained in 1991.)

Potluck meals used to take place regularly in the church fellowship hall,

and Anita said she would like to see that tradition revived.

“It was a way to welcome new members,” Chuck said. “We held it maybe once a month with good old Lutheran Church casseroles and Jell-O molds.”

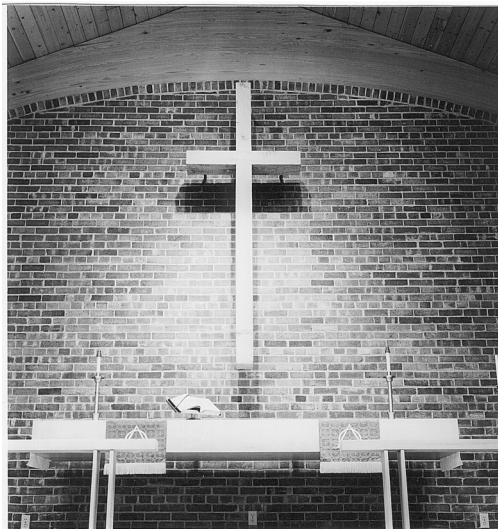
As part of the anniversary celebration, a potluck dinner will take place following church services and Sunday school on Sunday, Jan. 16. Sign up sheets are located in the fellowship hall.

Current and former church members who would like to share their memories of Messiah Lutheran Church are invited to send their submissions to: Messiah Lutheran Church, 2026 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140; or email: [secretary@messiahkenosha.org](mailto:secretary@messiahkenosha.org). Future submissions may be included in upcoming newsletters.



*Charles and Anita Brothers from our 2011 Anniversary Directory.*

# A few pictures from the early days...



# January 2011

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26<br>Sunday after Christmas<br>9:00 AM Divine Service<br>3:00 PM Open House at the Parsonage   | 27<br>No School<br>Pastor's Day off<br>St. John, Apostle and ... | 28<br>Holy Innocents, Martyrs<br>No School  | 29<br>No School   | 30<br>No School<br>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel   | 31<br>New Year's Day (obse...<br>No School<br>7:00 PM New Year's Eve Divine Service | 1<br>Circumcision and Na...<br>New Year's Day<br>New Year's Day                   |
| 2<br>J. K. Wilhelm Loehle, P...<br>Sunday after New Years<br>9:00 AM Divine Service<br>10:15 AM SS & Bible Class<br>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101         | 3<br>Pastor's Day off  | 4<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study  | 5<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study  | 6<br>The Epiphany of Our ...<br>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel<br>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution<br>7:00 PM Epiphany Service | 7<br>Elders retreat   | 8<br>Elders retreat   |
| 9<br>The Baptism of Our Lord<br>9:00 AM Divine Service<br>10:15 AM SS & Bible Class<br>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101                                      | 10<br>Basil the Great of Cae...<br>Pastor's Day off              | 11<br>Confession of St. Peter   | 12<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study   | 13<br>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel<br>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution   | 14<br>ALL CHURCH CLEANING<br>7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast<br>9:00 AM Altar Guild   | 15<br>ALL CHURCH CLEANING<br>7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast<br>9:00 AM Altar Guild |
| 16<br>Epiphany 2<br>President Wille Preaches<br>9:00 AM Divine Service<br>10:15 AM SS & Bible Class<br>11:15 AM Pot Luck<br>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101 | 17<br>Martin Luther King, Jr...<br>No School<br>Pastor's Day off | 18<br>Confession of St. Peter   | 19<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study   | 20<br>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel<br>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution<br>6:00 PM Spiritual Life<br>7:00 PM Parish Planning  | 21  | 22  |
| 23<br>Epiphany 3<br>9:00 AM Divine Service<br>10:15 AM SS & Bible Class<br>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101  | 24<br>Pastor's Day off<br>St. Timothy, Pastor                    | 25<br>The Conversion of Sa...   | 26<br>St. Titus<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study                                | 27<br>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel<br>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution<br>6:30 PM KALEA                                      | 28<br>Chess Tournament @...   | 29<br>Chess Tournament @...<br>7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast                      |
| 30<br>Epiphany 4<br>9:00 AM Divine Service<br>10:15 AM SS & Bible Class<br>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101  | 31<br>Pastor's Day off<br>PASTOR'S LENT SEMINAR                  | 1<br>Groundhog Day<br>The Purification of M...<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study | 2<br>Groundhog Day<br>The Purification of M...<br>8:15 AM Divine Service<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study | 3<br>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel<br>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution  | 4   | 5   |

# February 2011

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                                   | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>30</p> <p>Epiphany 4</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service</p> <p>10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p> <p>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101</p>                                       | <p>31</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p> <p>PASTOR'S LENT SEMINAR</p> | <p>1</p>   | <p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> <p>The Purification of M...</p> <p>8:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>3</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p> <p>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution</p>   | <p>4</p>                                 | <p>5</p>   |
| <p>6</p> <p>Epiphany 5</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM Sing at Lamb of God</p> <p>10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p> <p>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101</p>     | <p>7</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p>                               | <p>8</p>   | <p>9</p> <p>8:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p>  | <p>10</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p> <p>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution</p>  | <p>11</p>                                | <p>12</p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast</p> |
| <p>13</p> <p>Transfiguration</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service</p> <p>10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p> <p>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101</p>                                  | <p>14</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>       | <p>15</p>  | <p>16</p> <p>8:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM IMPACT: I Trust When Dark My Road</p>    | <p>17</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p> <p>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution</p> <p>6:00 PM Parish Planning</p> <p>7:00 PM Spiritual Life</p> | <p>18</p> <p>No School – End of m...</p> | <p>19</p>  |
| <p>20</p> <p>Septuagesima</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service</p> <p>10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p> <p>2:00 PM New Student Round-up</p> <p>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p> <p>President's Day</p>       | <p>22</p> <p>Ordination Anniversary</p> <p>Washington's Birthday</p> | <p>23</p> <p>8:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p>   | <p>24</p> <p>St. Matthias the Apostle</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p> <p>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution</p> <p>6:30 PM KALEA</p>         | <p>25</p>                                | <p>26</p> <p>Chess Tournament</p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast</p>   |
| <p>27</p> <p>Sexagesima</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM GUEST PREACHER: Voigt?</p> <p>10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p> <p>2:00 PM Lutheranism 101</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p>                              | <p>1</p>   | <p>2</p> <p>8:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p>  | <p>3</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p> <p>1:45 PM Confession and Absolution</p>   | <p>4</p>                                 | <p>5</p>   |

# Upcoming Events at Messiah



|                 |                            |            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Sun. Jan. 9th   | Heitkamp Baptism           | 9:00 a.m.  |
|                 | Fellowship Hall Reserved   | 6-9 p.m.   |
| Sat., Jan. 15th | Men's Bible Study          | 7:00 a.m.  |
|                 | at Perkins                 |            |
|                 | <u>Cleaning the Church</u> | 9:00 a.m.  |
|                 | Altar Guild Meeting        | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Sun., Jan. 16th | President Wille Preaches   |            |
|                 | Potluck                    | 11:30 a.m. |
| Sun., Jan 23rd  | Fellowship Hall Reserved   | 6-9 p.m.   |



## Messiah Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Academy  
Little Lambs Learning Center  
2026 22nd Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140