



# Messiah's Messenger

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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May 2011

## Why We Can Relax About Death (Easter Sermon)

By Pastor Todd A. Peperkorn, STM

*Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26 ESV). Paul really sums up so much of life under the cross with those words. So much of our lives are really about cheating death. Makeup, diets, slimming clothes, bigger or better muscles. We have medicines to make us happy, to mask pain and hurts, or to numb everything. Our daughters put on makeup at younger and younger ages, and we put makeup on those who have passed away, to keep them looking good as long as possible. We have cars to make us feel younger, gadgets to keep us on top of the latest trends, and memories to keep the dreams alive. We long for the so-called glory days which pass us by all too quickly, as Springsteen once sang.\*

But death is no dream. It is very, very real. And while we relish the release of pain and suffering, death itself is still the last, great enemy. A family struggles with the question: when do you "pull the plug," as some say so crassly. It is so hard to let go, and it seems wrong not to do everything in your power to keep the one you love alive. Where is the line between letting someone die and killing them? What is right? How do I know? You feel guilty whether you zig or zag. The pain and sorrow and grief are no less with all of our science and medical technology. In some ways, it is worse. We live longer than our parents and grandparents, but that doesn't mean we live better. So

when do you say goodbye, and how do you know? How many times can you say goodbye? I'm sure some of you have struggled with those heart wrenching moments. Maybe you are struggling with it now.

The women knew this grief and sorrow, as they came to anoint their dead Lord and found Him gone. Talk about insult added to injury! You don't mess with a grave. Never. It is just not done. But there it is. He is gone. Not just dead. Gone. Peter sees, rushes in, saw the empty tomb and the linens folded up all nice in the corner, and went off.

Mary Magdalene is left to mourn, alone. Two angels come to comfort her. They ask why she is weeping. *Why am I weeping*, she in effect says to them. *I'm weeping because Jesus is dead and now they've stolen Him from me! There is no body. Everything is gone. I have no place to mourn. Even the place of my grief has been taken away!* Suddenly the gardener appears, or is it Jesus? He, too, wanted to know why she wept so. She replies, "**Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away**" (John 20:15 ESV).

All she wanted was to mourn in peace. The thought that things were better than they ever imagined, well, it never even occurred to her. Grief has that way about it. It sucks us in, as Satan tries to pry our faith from us. But life interrupts death. Jesus is alive, and says her name, **Mary**. In the blink of an eye, everything, everything is different. Now, the mourning doesn't seem to fit quite

the same. Now, Mary can see that when Jesus raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead, that was just the beginning. When Life conquered Death in that strange and dreadful strife, everything that we thought we understood about the world was turned upside down and inside out.

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the story of our lives, that we forget we know the ending. It reminds me of one of my favorite movie scenes is from the cult classic, *The Princess Bride*. In the movie a grandfather reads a story to his sick grandson. The son reluctantly agrees. As the story of death and mayhem and romance goes on, the young boy gets further and further engrossed into the movie. At one point the grandfather has to stop the story and remind the boy "she doesn't get eaten by the eels at this time."

I know, it sounds silly. But it is important as we journey in joy and sorrows and romance and grief to remember that we don't get eaten by the eels, so to speak.

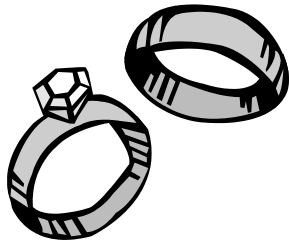
In the world, death is the end. There is no more story. We either seek to defeat death by taking life on our own terms (e.g. Euthanasia, abortion, suicide, and the like), OR we try to defeat it at all costs by covering it up, extending life no matter what, and masking its reality. But Jesus' resurrection means that death is not in charge. St. Paul wrote, "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Events/ Volunteers

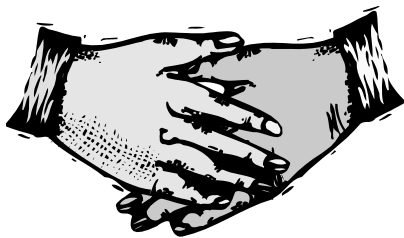
## Wedding Anniversaries

- 5/2 John & Betty Hrupka
- 5/3 Todd & Debra Brittich
- 5/6 Phil & Denise Jacobs
- 5/9 Walter & Gloria Pipkorn
- 5/18 Bruce & Diane Eisenbraun



## Ushers

- 5/1 Chuck Leisten & Jonathan Lutz
- 5/8 Sam Braya & Mark Varvil
- 5/15 Jonathan Lutz & Roger Jeschke
- 5/22 Keith & Jacob Kentala
- 5/29 Mark Varvil & Mike Snodgrass



## Greeters

- 5/1 Stacey Cleereman
- 5/8 Mary Siebert
- 5/15 Toni Marshman
- 5/22 Mary Rusch
- 5/29 Gail Kulbacki

## Birthdays

- 5/2 Brittany Busse
- 5/5 Allen Swift
- 5/10 Andrew Griepentrog
- 5/12 Ethan Tobalsky
- 5/13 Nicole Wolgefahrt
- 5/14 Amelia Noble
- 5/15 Allen Weber
- 5/16 Brooke Ratzburg
- 5/17 Laureen Brothers
- 5/19 Sarah Hagerman
- 5/25 Anita Brothers, Sara Ricchio, Rebecca Brothers & Bryce Braya-Weyrauch
- 5/28 Gemma DelFrate
- 5/29 Brody Pederson
- 5/31 Debbie Davidson



## Elders

- 5/1 Todd Walther
- 5/8 Brent Jiter
- 5/15 Don Moe
- 5/22 Tyler Nehls
- 5/29 Phil Jacobs



## Baptisms

- 5/1 Austin Nehls
- 5/5 Hope Kentala
- 5/7 Pastor Peperkorn
- 5/9 Krista Bruneau
- 5/14 Rick Zuehls
- 5/15 Hailee Nicolazzi
- 5/17 Marilyn Dissen & Jacob Kentala
- 5/21 Todd Giese & Jason Stephans
- 5/22 Ryan Stephans
- 5/28 Allen Swift
- 5/29 Cole Pederson
- 5/31 Allen Weber & Nicole Wolgefahrt



## Altar Guild

- Doris Colombe
- Bonnie Griepentrog



## Flower chart

- 5/1 Easter Lilies
- 5/8 Hrupka Family
- 5/15 Chuck & Anita Brothers
- 5/22 Chuck & Anita Brothers
- 5/29 DelFrate Family

# The Dissen Family

By Kris Kochman

Sharing their faith has always been important to Bill and Marilyn Dissen, who have been members of Messiah since 1964. They have encouraged new membership through evangelism, including home visits to prospective members. They also spread the word by teaching Sunday school, sharing their faith with countless children during 20 some years of teaching. Marilyn chose to teach the younger children, while Bill preferred to teach youths in fourth grade and older.

"I really liked working with the kids," Marilyn said. "I tried to make Sunday school very interesting for them."

She often used felt boards to tell the story of the lesson, and involved the children with acting out the story. The couple still uses Christmas tree ornaments that were given to Marilyn as gifts by her Sunday school students.

Bill also served on the board of elders, including serving as chairman in the 1960s. He served on the Little Lambs Learning Center board and the board of evangelism for about 20 years – much of that time as chairman.

Marilyn has been active in the Altar Guild, Vacation Bible School and the Lutheran Women's Mission League. She helped print Braille Bibles at Grace Lutheran Church in Racine, along with other

women at Messiah.

The Dissens worked each year for more than 25 years at the Evangelism Booth at both Wilmot and Union Grove.

"We've been active with everything," Bill said. "At one time I was the official tree trimmer at church. I helped out with the grounds."

Every week or two, Bill Dissen comes up with a new message for the church message board along 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. He seeks approval from Pastor Peperkorn before changing the sign – and receives the go-ahead most of the time.

"We use some pretty good ones that have some wallop to them: law and gospel," Bill said. "We're not here to entertain the public."

Rather, he hopes people take the message to heart.

"For years when I walked out the door I graded both Pastor Peperkorn and Pastor Gundlach on their sermons," he said. "I'm a pretty tough grader. It has to stick to law and gospel and they get graded down if they put jokes into it. I have told more than one pastor that God's word is sharper than a two-edged sword and if you try to improve the sermon with humor it's like taking a Toledo blue blade and putting it on an old farm whetstone...you take the edge off it."

"I don't think I've ever given Pastor Peperkorn or Pastor Gund-

lach less than 98 percent," he added.

Both Marilyn and Bill are lifelong members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Marilyn

grew up in Michigan, where the couple met. Bill was born in Minnesota, but moved all over the country with his family while growing up. His father, Victor Dissen, was a LCMS minister. Bill's brother, Dave, is a retired minister.

Ever since he was a young boy, Bill has been a big fan of baseball. The St. Louis Cardinals are his favorite team.

"Dad wasn't happy with me one time – I think we had a mission Sunday. I went to church, but there was an afternoon worship, and I took off to play with the baseball team."

The Dissens' daughter, Diana was baptized by her grandfather at St. Paul's in Union Grove. She was confirmed at Messiah by Pastor Bucholz. Their son, Donald, was baptized in Flint, Mich. and confirmed at Messiah under Pastor

*This article is the fifth 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.*

**Looking Back to Look Forward**

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Bucholz.

The Dissens also have two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bill retired from American Brass in 1993, after working there for 34 years in a number of different positions, including operating a high powered saw.

Marilyn worked for 13 years as a teller at First National Bank before retiring in June of 1988.

Messiah has been part of their social life as well as their church life.



Diana Dissen, Bill & Marilyn's daughter

Years ago, the Dissens enjoyed participating in the church bowling league, and playing pinochle with Merle and Marge Sheridan.

Marilyn said she is happy to see a return of people's involvement with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The group has been working on making blankets for the missions.

The Dissens have also been big supporters of the church school, Christ Lutheran Academy.

"When they built this church it was with the idea that someday we'd have a bigger church and then use the church itself for a school," Marilyn said.

Bill said he remains hopeful that one day there will be a new church building on the corner, with the current building dedicated to use for a school.

"Like the parochial school it happens at God's time," he said.

The Dissens said they have found that evangelism is most effective on an individual basis. "I think we agree: it's for individuals to invite



Bill & Marilyn's picture from the directory

people," Bill said.

He said he has witnessed many occasions over the years where a personal invitation has encouraged a former member to return to Messiah. Sometimes new members end up recruiting others to join the church as well.

"We have tried many wide-ranging outreach programs that have been fruitless," Bill said. "The most successful outreach is through personal invitation which may mean people attending with you."

(Continued from page 1)

over him" (Romans 6:9 ESV). Death is not your master. Our living Lord, Jesus Christ, has died and risen again, so that your dying will always mean life in the end. St. Paul wrote again, "For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8 ESV).

For thousands of years Christians have faced death with a remarkable grace and confidence. That doesn't mean we aren't afraid to die. Of

course, death is still scary, and none of us long for the unknown like that. But at the same time, because of that empty tomb and living Lord, you are free to live or die. It is all the same. Eternal life is your inheritance. Jesus has conquered it all.

*Easter morning, Christ is risen. Come behold the empty grave. We deserved the fiery prison. Hear the pardon which He gave. Be refreshed, renewed my people, Stooped and beaten since the Fall You, in Him are more than conquerors: Cruel Death is killed for all.\**

Be at peace, dear children of God. Christ has done it! You know the end of the story. Sing with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven! Nothing can defeat you in Him. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Everything else, even death itself, pales by comparison. Rejoice, Oh Redeemed, for your Redeemer bids you feast on Him and live forever.

*Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* In the strong name of Jesus. Amen.



## May Themes:

May 2nd-6th - Cinco de Mayo & Mother's Day

May 9th-13th - The Environment & Gardening

May 16th-May 20th - Zoo Animals

May 23rd-27th - Ocean Animals

### **We Can Paint a Rainbow... on Toast?!?**

Lately we have seen more rain than rainbows, but here at Little Lambs we see rainbows everyday through art, music and even at snack time. With our snacks we try to incorporate food projects that go along with the theme for the week. In the photos below the children were painting their bread with milk and food color. After they finished we toasted the bread. Toasting it made the colors even more vibrant!



# News for Ewes

## Little Lambs Learning Center



**Register Now for Fall!** Are you looking for a preschool for your 3-5 year old child, or for before or aftercare for your CLA student? If so please set up an appointment with Mary Jo Jiter, the director of Little Lambs Learning Center. She would be happy to set up a tour to share more about the programs that Little Lambs offers for Kindergarten Readiness, preschool and before and aftercare for preschoolers and CLA students. Call 262-551-8167 or email [lllc@messiahkenosha.org](mailto:lllc@messiahkenosha.org). If you register for fall by June 1st, 2011 you will receive a 25% discount off your child's registration fee. Registration is first come, first serve. Packets are available in the classroom or in the office.

### **May Center Updates:**

- **Kindergarten Shadowing** -Christ Lutheran Academy is having their annual "Kindergarten Shadowing" on Tuesday, May 3rd. If you have or know a 2011-2012 kindergartner please consider this opportunity for them. The kids will get to experience Kindergarten life from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and enjoy a snack. Please contact Debi Tauschek at (262) 697-6044 if you are interested in participating. Thank you!
- **Parents are invited to a Mother's Day Tea** on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 AM—12:30 PM. We will begin with chapel at 11:45 and then we will have lunch together. Tea, milk, and cookies will be provided for lunch!
- **Registration for our summer session is now open.** This summer we will be running an early childhood program for children Preschool – 3rd grade. We will be open at 6:30 AM for before care and our program will run from 8:00-11:30 AM. We will provide aftercare until noon. The summer session will continue to have a structured program with weekly thematic learning units. Just like our school year policy, children can enroll two, three, four, or five morning sessions. Call Mrs. Jiter for additional details or to pick up a registration packet. Summer session hours begin Tuesday, May 31st.
- **Spring Fundraiser & Field Trip:** Thank you to all who participated in the spring Lia Sophia fundraiser, and a special thanks to Allison Stephans for helping coordinate the fundraiser as our consultant. The money we earn will go towards our fieldtrip costs and bus fee when we visit the Racine Zoo on Tuesday, May 17th. The children are already very excited about the upcoming trip and keep asking if it is coming up "this week".
- **Last and First Days** - May 27th is the last day of the 2010-2011 preschool session, with summer session beginning on May 31st, we will be closed for Memorial Day on the 30th.



*The first day of the 2011-2012 school year will be Thursday, September 1st, mark your calendars!*

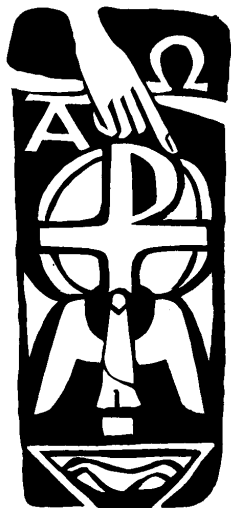
# May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> <b>St. Philip and St. Jam...</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Pastor's Day off</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>Kindergarten Shadowing</b> 8:15 AM Matins</p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:15 AM Divine Service 11:45 AM LLLC Mother's Tea Party</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> 10:30 AM LLLC Chapel 1:45 PM Confession and Absolution</p>	<p><b>6</b> 8:15 AM Matins</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b> <b>FIRST COMMUNION</b> <b>Misericordias Domini...</b> Mother's Day 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p><b>9</b> Spring pastors conference, Radisson/Appleton <b>CLA Music Recital</b> Pastor's Day off</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8:15 AM Matins</p>	<p><b>11</b> 8:15 AM Divine Service</p>	<p><b>12</b> 10:30 AM LLLC Chapel 1:45 PM Confession and Absolution 7:00 PM LWML Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b> 8:15 AM Matins 6:00 PM Craft Night</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> <b>CLA SING AT LAMB O...</b> <b>Jubilate (Easter 4)</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class 6:30 PM Fine Arts Camp informational meeting and voice screening</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Pastor's Day off</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:15 AM Matins</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8:15 AM Divine Service</p>	<p><b>19</b> 10:30 AM LLLC Chapel 1:45 PM Confession and Absolution 6:00 PM Spiritual Life 7:00 PM Parish Planning</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:15 AM Matins 6:00 PM CLA Wine Tasting</p>	<p><b>21</b> 10:00 AM Altar Guild Meeting</p>
<p><b>22</b> <b>Cantate (Easter 5)</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Pastor's Day off</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:15 AM Matins 6:30 PM KALEA</p>	<p><b>25</b> 8:15 AM Divine Service</p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:30 AM LLLC Chapel 1:45 PM Confession and Absolution 7:00 PM CLA Closing Service at Messiah</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> 8:15 AM Matins</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> <b>John F. Kennedy's Birt...</b> <b>Rogate (Easter 6)</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Pastor's Day off</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Justin, Martyr</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Ascension</b> 10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>

# June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>John F. Kennedy's Birt...  <b>Rogate (Easter 6)</b>            9:00 AM Divine Service            10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Memorial Day            Pastor's Day off</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Justin, Martyr</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Ascension</b>            10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Boniface of Mainz, Mi...  <b>Exaudi (Sunday after ...)</b>            9:00 AM Divine Service            10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class            11:30 AM Pot Luck</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>St. Barnabas, Apostle</b></p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>The Ecumenical Coun...  <b>Whitsunday (Feast of ...)</b>            9:00 AM Divine Service            10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor's Day off  <b>Whit-Monday</b></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Elisha            Flag Day  <b>Whit-Tuesday</b></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel            7:00 PM Spiritual Life</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Father's Day  <b>Trinity Sunday</b>            9:00 AM Divine Service            10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor's Day off</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel            6:30 PM KALEA</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Nativity of John the B...</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Presentation of the A...</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Jeremiah  <b>Trinity 1</b>            9:00 AM Divine Service            10:15 AM SS &amp; Bible Class</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Cyril of Alexandria, P...            Pastor's Day off</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Irenaeus of Lyons, Pa...</p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>St. Peter and St. Paul ...</b></p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 AM LLLC Chapel</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>The Visitation</b></p>

# Upcoming Events at Messiah



Mon. May 9th	Fellowship Hall in use	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thurs. May 12th	LWML Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Fri. May 13th	Craft Night	6:00 p.m.
Sun. May 15th	Fellowship Hall in use	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thurs. May 19th	Spiritual Life	6:00 p.m.
	Parish Planning	7:00 p.m.
Sat. May 21st	Altar Guild Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Tues. May 24th	KALEA meeting	6:30 p.m.



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Little Lambs Learning Center  
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