

Messiah Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church, 19901 S Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

On Monday, September 6, Americans will observe “Labor Day,” a legal holiday set aside to honor labor. Work is often thought of as drudgery--something that you have to do to make a living. So we sometimes call work toil, a chore, an obligation, or even a necessary evil. The New World Dictionary does not agree with that, but holds work up as honorable and positive. Part of its definition goes as follows: “work is physical or mental effort exerted to do or make something and be involved in purposeful activity.”

The Bible takes an even higher view of labor. Labor is actually a gift from God meant to fill our hours and days with meaningful activities that honor God, respect His creation, and provide blessings for others and ourselves. It was God who put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15). This work was given to Adam before the fall into sin and thus was a blessing from God. It is true that after the fall into sin, work became wearisome toil as the ground was cursed so that sinful human beings would have to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brows until their dying day (Genesis 3:17b-19). But, in spite of that curse, labor or work remains a blessing from God.

Dr. Martin Luther (who wrote much on the subject of vocation) believed that vocation was a calling, which encompassed the whole of the life of the believer, and was NOT narrowly defined as a job, trade, or even a religious vocation. Luther believed that the honest work of a janitor, maid or housewife was just as important and pleasing to God as the work of a president, pastor, teacher, doctor, scientist or any other vocation held in high esteem.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 (NIV) reads: “A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment?”

St. Paul in writing to the Ephesians and Thessalonians said: “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.” (Ephesians 4:28 NIV). For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV).

...continued on page 4

Volume 3, Issue 9
September 2010

Inside this issue:

<i>From our Stewardship Board</i>	1
<i>From Pastor Dave</i>	2
<i>From Pastor Kurt</i>	3
<i>Messiah Happenings</i>	4
<i>Serving at Messiah In Touch</i>	5
<i>From our Parish Nurse</i>	6
<i>Calendars</i>	8-9

PHONE:
815-741-4488

FAX:
815-741-4501

EMAIL:
INFO@MESSIAH
LUTHERAN-
JOLIET.COM

WEBSITE:
WWW.MESSIAH
LUTHERAN-
JOLIET.COM



FROM PASTOR DAVE NYGARD...

Your Rally Day Job Description

I can't wait for Rally Day to be here on Sunday September 12th. We can expect many visitors and strangers, worshippers and members to fill our sanctuary. People will enroll in Sunday School and sing hymns of praise. We'll hear good news about Jesus Christ and celebrate the sacraments. **Many good things will happen in many lives if you and I fulfill our job descriptions as Christians and church members.**

Our job description as Christians includes welcoming people to God's house and family. If you notice someone who seems a bit lost, offer your help. If you see someone sitting alone, introduce yourself. If someone forgets to get a bulletin, offer your bulletin. First impressions are important. People will come back for a second Sunday and be more open to God if they are made to feel at home in church.

Our job description as Christians is to pray for the work of the church during the week and on Sunday morning. Pray for people of all ages to experience salvation and a personal faith relationship with Jesus. Pray for the sick. Remember the names of the individuals prayed for on Sunday and bring their needs to God. Send them a card too.

Our job description as Christians includes volunteering our time and talents. Four Sundays in August we had leaders tell us about our AWANA ministry for children and our need for volunteers. We didn't get one volunteer! I know that people volunteer at the last minute. I have no doubt that we will get help but it just reaffirms that people in the pew always think that the announcements are for the individuals sitting next to them. But any request for help is for you, me and everyone unless God tells us otherwise. Did I mention that we need volunteers for AWANA on Wednesday evenings and MOPS on two Thursdays a month?

Our job description as Christians is to participate in the life of the church during the week. I encourage you to take a class like ALPHA and to bring a friend. Join "Dinner For Eight" and get to know the people sitting next to you on Sunday. Prepare a meal for the homeless shelter and serve it with other caring people. Drive some kids to a youth event or pick up a shut-in for Sunday morning church. Your genuine kindness and involvement might make all the difference in someone else coming to know Jesus and to experience his love.

If you see something messy at church, pick it up. If the flowers are dry, water them. If you can sing on key, join the choir. If someone works behind the scenes, express your appreciation. If there's a need, write a check. Let others see Jesus in your smile and actions. Don't just warm the pew, warm someone's heart. See you on Rally Day. Church is at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Pastor David Nygard

Serving with Joy and Thanksgiving

As I write this letter our building is filled with volunteers preparing for the Church Luau. We have lighted trees, grass skirting, flowers and food preparation. We are also going to have two hula dancers and a fire dancer! At the same time we had the youth house ready on Confirmation orientation night. The 7th graders walked through for the first time. The carpets have been cleaned, the Sunday school rooms prepared, schedules made, and plans laid. Along with the excitement of Fall can come the burden of so much to do. God asks us to invest in his work through the church, but only if we can volunteer with joy and thanksgiving.

I have told you before that I spent 18 months as the lead pastor in my last congregation after the senior pastor left. In that time our entire preschool staff moved on when the director retired, our youth director and his wife - who lead all of the worship and music - moved to Minnesota, and my only added help was a retired pastor for half of the transition. I became too busy for my morning journaling. I became too busy to take time to pray for others, my family, or myself. I became too busy to start my day thanking God in prayer and my focus shifted from how much God provides to how little I had. I had no energy, I had no time for my new son, I had no compassion for others in need, and I had no help! A month before our new senior pastor arrived I took a health assessment and let's just say I didn't pass. It was a huge surprise to me because things were really hopping at the church. We had raised \$70,000 to replace our roof, our church would soon be fully staffed, and I felt very proud of leading the congregation through a big transition. After I submitted the survey online the counselors from the clergy health insurance pool called and asked if they could call me once a month to give some free self help counseling. Long story short, they helped me set some health goals. With the counselor's guidance the first two goals I picked were journaling for half a page each morning and then 5-10 minutes of prayer. Very simple, purposely not complicated - the first thing I open on my desk at work is a journal, I start by writing, "Yesterday I felt... and then I let it flow being honest with myself about work, family, God...then immediately after I pray the **TRIP** prayer: I give **T**hanks - for everything including the people and things that burden me, then I **R**epent - letting go of my regrets and mistakes so I can live out of my gifts, then **I**ntercession - prayers for others, and finally I give God my **P**urpose for that day and usually the journal and prayer has made it obvious who needs my attention most - family, coworkers, someone in the hospital, volunteers, the sermon, or more time with God. **TRIP** - **T**hanks, **R**epent, **I**ntercession, **P**urpose.

It was the single best thing I have done in my ministry, besides taking God's call to Messiah. It transformed my life. I was able to step back and see what was going on around me and how God was at work. My prayer gave me perspective, I was reminded of what was most important. I was able to see how my busy list of things to do was actually conflicting with what God was doing. I took more time to visit members in the hospital and at home. I was able to see the example I give as a leader is just as important as what I can get done. A tired, unthankful man is not much of a spiritual inspiration to others. I gained a renewed passion for Christian fellowship. I renewed my commitment to my small group meeting of pastors. I saw that in order to feed others I needed to be feed as well.

Rally day is coming. It is an opportunity for children to sign up for Sunday school and for church members to teach about God. But, Sunday school isn't just for children. And the church works best when adults are learning as well as teaching. Can you picture what God has been and is doing through Messiah? We are being fed in this place just as we give our time and energy to feed others. Giving at confirmation, being fed at Alpha...Being fed at Adult bible study, giving in the kitchen...Giving through the choir or a board, being fed from Book Chat, OWLS or MOPS...Giving to the youth, and being fed at Dinner for 8. There are so many things we can offer each other.

This fall I invite you to eat the bread of life - all that Jesus is offering; put yourself in a place or a group where you can receive, and another where you can give, all the while praising God on Sunday.

-Pr. Kurt Hoover

...continued from page 1

God's redeemed people understand that Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Giving money to support the work of the church and other institutions, giving time to help with honest efforts, and using our talents to bring glory to God and blessings to others are all important parts of Christian stewardship. This truth is summed up beautifully in these words from 2 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV): "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

This Labor Day and every day give thanks to God for the blessing of work. Giving thanks for honest labor is something that Christian stewards can remember to do in their daily thoughts and prayers. So, enjoy whatever you are doing to observe Labor Day, and then continue your daily work with joy and enthusiasm.

Stewardship Board:

ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT TO DO ON MONDAY NIGHTS IN THE FALL? Yes, you could watch Monday night football, or maybe one of the new shows that are starting in the fall OR, you could set your DVR to TAPE these exciting events and come to Mike and Jeanette Wegemer's home for a *Small Group Bible Study*. The Wegemers' are very excited about offering a small group study on believing and teaching the AUTHORITY of the Bible. This study is designed to provide our group with a strong knowledge of Christianity, challenge them on the inerrancy of Scripture, and strengthen their trust in the Bible. We will meet at the Wegemer home from 7-9 PM Monday nights beginning September 13th. Please join us. Let us know you are coming by calling the church office at 815-741-4488.

Kurt & Herb host GAME NIGHT - because you have been looking for an excuse to play RISK (or games like it) again. Strategy board games only! No wimpy Cranium type games. Come to the fellowship hall 6:00 pm the 2nd Friday of each month for an epic struggle for world domination.

Do you play? - The praise team is in need of instrumental volunteers for the 11:00 Sunday morning service. We practice once during the week, play Sunday mornings, and an occasional jam session. If you play your gifts are needed and we know that you will find fulfillment in using them. Contact Dave Stier or Herb Alexander.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER:

"One fast way to depression is allowing one area of our lives that isn't working well to pervade and weaken all areas."

Larry Simcox Ph.D.; M. Div.; L.M.F.T.

Refer friends to Larry's website: www.LarrySimcox.com

Renting space at Messiah Lutheran Church

SERVING AT MESSIAH

Our Counters...

September 5 - Liz Liming, Gerry Hauge

September 12 - Brian Wielbik, Dan Stukel

September 19 - Ken Skinner, Kathy Lauffer

September 26 - Stan Buhr, Kate Joho



Our Communion Assistants...

September 5 - Kim Goffinet, Darlene Wilkinson (8:30), Doug Potts and Linda Hallberg (10:00)

September 12 - Stan & MaryEtta Buhr (8:00)

September 19 - Dave Stier, Darlene Wilkinson (8:00), Doug Potts, Rowan Hedden (9:30),
Mike & Heather Brown (11:00)

September 26 - Dave Stier, Linda Hawkinson (8:00)

Our Readers...

September 5 - Randy Ling (8:30), Linda Hallberg (10:00)

September 12 - Deb Dole (8:00), Jean Proffitt (9:30)

September 19 - Ron Sarver (8:00), Sherri Unyi (9:30)

September 26 - Dan Stukel (8:00), Kim Goffinet (9:30)

Our Greeters...

September 5 - Judy Milde (8:30), Dave & Nancy Skroko (10:00)

September 12 - Jesse & Joan Cohoon (8:00), Judy Jelm (9:30), Stacie Walters (11:00)

September 19 - Darryl & Cindi Souza (8:00), Dave & Carolyn Torkelson (11:00)

September 26 - Sandy Peterson (8:00), Dave & Nancy Skroko (9:30)

Our Ushers...

September 5 - Jesse Cohoon, Terry Anderson (8:30), Gary Phillips, Caleb Valkovich (10:00)

September 12 - Randy Ling, Don Cyborski (8:00), Bill Fox, Lou Mahalik (11:00)

September 19 - Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller (8:00), Darryl Souza, Jim Umbaugh (9:30),
Tom Spielman, Mike Scarcelli (11:00)

September 26 - Craig Stone, Dave Peterson (8:00), Rowan Hedden, Roger Gordon (9:30),
Mike Brown (11:00)

IN TOUCH

Please keep those who were hospitalized in your prayers - Jack Cartwright, Jo Cyborski, Shirley Donick,
Malysa Fredericks, Betty Hines, Kathy Kemp

Shingles

Body, Mind, and Soul—Notes from your Parish Nurse

Marsha Smith, RN

Shingles is a painful outbreak of rash or blisters caused by the virus that causes chicken pox. The virus remains dormant in your body long after a chicken pox outbreak is over and it can reactivate years later.

Shingles usually begins with a burning, tingling pain or numbness in or under the skin. Within a few days or weeks, there is increasing weakness along with fever, headache, chills or upset stomach, followed by a rash of small red, fluid-filled blisters. The rash appears in a broad band on one side of the body, often over the ribs. Shingles is intensely painful, and the discomfort can be unrelenting. In most cases, the rash and pain will subside within three to five weeks.

Shingles can occur in anyone who has had chicken pox or who hasn't been vaccinated against the virus. At greatest risk:

- People over 60
- People who had chicken pox at a very young age (under one year)

People with weakened immune systems, such as chemotherapy patients

What you can do about it:

- Antiviral drugs such as zovirax, valtrex or famvir can reduce the severity and duration of shingles if taken within 72 hours of the rash's appearance

Over the counter painkillers such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen can reduce discomfort. For intense pain, you may need prescription drugs such as tricyclic antidepressants (Elavil, Tofranil), corticosteroids like prednisone, or topical medications containing lidocaine or capsaicin.

A small number of patients experience postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), or pain that lingers for at least 30 days and can continue for months or even years. This complication occurs in nearly one-third of patients 60 or older.

A few years ago the FDA approved a vaccine called ZOSTAVAX to reduce the risk of shingles in adults 60 and older who have previously had chicken pox. A large clinical trial of older adults showed that the vaccine prevented about half the number of shingles outbreaks and reduced the severity and number of complications in people who did get shingles. If you haven't received this vaccine, think about getting it when you go in for your flu shot this fall.

FOUNDATIONS FOR HIS MINISTRY...

Dear Pastor & Family:

For over 44 years we have stood solidly on the Lord's promise, given to us by Dr. Jean Darnall, that there would be a never failing spring of water at the Baja Mission. For over four decades we have enjoyed an endless stream of the sweetest and purest water. Through long seasons of drought our wells have never run dry. Several months ago a 7.2 earthquake, centered in Mexicali about 200 miles north, rocked the Baja Peninsula. We thought we got off lightly - initial reports showed only surface cracking in a few buildings. But then strange things started being reported: goldfish dying; coffee creamer curdling; the printer's plates turning 'spotty', no birds on the reclamation pond and a strange rotten-egg smell coming off our sprinkler system. And then the bombshell hit - our pure water had been contaminated with salt.

...continued on page 7

Fortunately by *World Health Organization* standards our water was still drinkable but as a precautionary measure we purchased water. The process of discovering the extent of the damage to our water system, and what it would take to repair it, began! Tom Chrestman, from Cottage Grove, OR, a gifted engineer, was appointed to guide us through the restoration process. We prayed for the miracle - a quick return to having our pristine pure water - but it didn't happen. The decision to purchase a desalination system and the necessity of digging the damaged Prayer Garden (former Experimental Orchard) well deeper was made. As in Isaiah's time the promise of restoration comes with conditions - as a ministry we have entered into a season of serious reflection where we are listening to what the Lord is saying. To repair the damage will be costly. Join with us in prayer that we will not miss what He is saying. Thank you that He moved on your heart to give so that pure water may once again flow in our midst. - Charla

****God has allowed Messiah Lutheran Church to be able to donate \$4,725 to this wonderful mission ministry.***

Alpha Sunday, Sept 26: September 12, 19, 26 - Pr. Dave has prepared a sermon series addressing the common questions people long to ask God, "Why is life unfair?," "Why is God so Angry?" "Why is God Hiding?" Prayerfully consider who God has placed in your life who is asking these same questions and invite them to come hear the series. We will be making a special appeal during the service on the 26th for our members and visitors to attend our first night of Alpha on the 28th. If you would like help inviting someone to Alpha bring them to worship that day.



Is There More To Life? Find Out At Alpha.Org and Messiah Lutheran!

Come to our free and friendly, no obligation introductory dinner Tuesday September 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran. Call 815-741-4488.

Alpha meets for ten weeks on Tuesday evenings. **You just have to come to the first meeting** to meet some nice people, enjoy a great dinner, listen to a thoughtful humorous talk titled "**Christianity: Boring, Untrue, and Irrelevant**" and think about what you've heard during the evening. If you like it, come again. If not, you never have to attend Alpha again.

What topics are discussed during these sessions?

Christianity: Boring, untrue, and irrelevant, Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die?

How can I be sure of my faith? Why and how should I read my Bible?




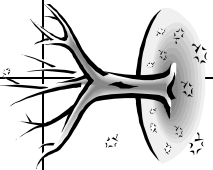
Why and how should I pray? How does God guide us? Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

How can I resist evil? Why and how should we tell others? Does God heal today? What about the church? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Over 7 million people have attended an Alpha course. Alpha is in 154 countries, 62 languages and now you can attend at Messiah Lutheran.

Do you 'Like' your church? If you have a Facebook account we encourage you to keep connected with Messiah ministry by finding the Messiah page and clicking 'Like.' You can find it quickly by typing *Messiah Lutheran Joliet* in the Facebook search bar and you will know you are in the right place when you see Luther's rose. If you are an active Facebook user we encourage you to share your excitement about Messiahs ministry on our wall and to invite those you would like to see more involved at Messiah to become Messiah Facebook fans.

September 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>5 8:15 AM Pre-service prayer 8:30 AM Worship 10 AM Family Praise & Worship 11:30 AM YLT (Youth House)</p> 	<p>6  LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED!</p>	<p>7 </p>	<p>1 6:30 PM Awana Volunteer Training 7:15 PM Vesper Service</p>	<p>2 10 AM Prayer Time 11 AM Office Staff Meeting 2 PM Prayer Shawl 7 PM Delta Hour 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>3 6 PM Messiah Scrappers</p>	<p>4 10 AM Worship Team practice</p>
<p>8 8:15 AM Pre-service prayer 8:30 AM Worship 10 AM Family Praise & Worship 11:30 AM YLT (Youth House)</p>	<p>13 DAYBREAK SHELTER 7:00 PM "Answers For Life" (Small group study at the Wegemer home)</p>	<p>14 12 PM OWLS Potluck 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 6:15 PM Head2Heart 6:30 PM Awana Welcome Night 7:15 PM Worship Service</p>	<p>9 8:45 AM MOPS 10 AM Prayer Time 11 AM Office Staff Meeting 2 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM New Members 6:30 PM Children's Choir 7 PM Delta Hour 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>10 6:30 PM Worship Team practice</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 RALLY SUNDAY! 7:45 AM Pre-service prayer 8 & 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Family Praise & Worship</p>	<p>20 7:00 PM "Answers For Life" (Small group study at the Wegemer home)</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Messiah Quilters 6/6:30 PM Boards Meet 7:30 PM PPC Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:15 PM Head2Heart 6:30 PM Awana 7:15 PM Worship Service</p>	<p>16 10 AM Prayer Time 11 AM Office Staff Meeting 2 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM New Members 7 PM Delta Hour 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 10 AM Worship Team practice</p>
<p>19 7:45 AM Pre-service prayer 8 & 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Children's Choir 11 AM Family Praise & Worship</p>	<p>27 7:00 PM "Answers For Life" (Small group study at the Wegemer home)</p>	<p>28 9 AM Memory Bear Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 7 PM Book Chat</p>	<p>22 6:15 PM Head2Heart 6:30 PM Awana 7:15 PM Worship Service</p>	<p>23 8:45 AM MOPS 10 AM Prayer Time 11 AM Office Staff Meeting 2 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM New Members 7 PM Delta Hour 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>24 6:30 - 10 PM ROC (5th-6th Grade) Back to School Party!</p>	<p>25 10 AM Worship Team practice 7-10:30 PM FISH & Rebellion Mafia Night</p>
<p>26 7:45 AM Pre-service prayer 8 & 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Children's Choir 11 AM Family Praise & Worship</p>	<p>29 6:15 PM Head2Heart 6:30 PM Awana 7:15 PM Worship Service</p>	<p>30 10 AM Prayer Time 11 AM Office Staff Meeting 2 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM New Members 7 PM Delta Hour 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>29 6:15 PM Head2Heart 6:30 PM Awana 7:15 PM Worship Service</p>	<p>30 10 AM Prayer Time 11 AM Office Staff Meeting 2 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM New Members 7 PM Delta Hour 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>		



Messiah Lutheran Church
19901 S Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431
Phone: 815-741-4488
Fax: 815-741-4501
Check us out at
www.messiahlutheranjoliet.com

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Joliet, IL
Permit No. 149

Change Service Requested

Worship Times at Messiah Lutheran Church

Summer Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service

(always with Communion)

10 AM Family Praise & Worship Service

(with Contemporary Music)

Fall/Winter Worship Hours (Starting September 12th!)

8 AM Traditional Worship Service (with Communion at all times)

9:30 AM Worship Service & Sunday School Classes

11 AM Family Praise & Worship Service

Communion served at all services the

1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

Wednesday Evenings

7:15 PM Worship Service - Vesper Service the first Wednesday of each month-Less formal hymn sings and Communion the remaining Wednesdays