

**STAFF**

**Pastor**

Gregory Isaacson

**Children's/Handbell Choir Director**

Kathy Hardy

**Church Secretary**

Nancy Jandro

**Custodian**

Eddie Clymer

**Custodian**

John Boyum

**Children's Ministry**

Jan Winkler

**Youth & Family Ministry**

Jessica Harris

**Finance**

Scott Prunty

**Organist**

Neil Lubke

**OFFICE**

**Monday - Thursday**

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Friday**

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Telephone:** 651-436-1138

**Fax:** 651-436-7267

**Sunday Worship**

8:30 & 10:30 AM through May 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:30 AM beginning May 30<sup>th</sup>

E-mail: [office@memoriallutheran.org](mailto:office@memoriallutheran.org)

Website: [www.memoriallutheran.org](http://www.memoriallutheran.org)



**MAY/JUNE**

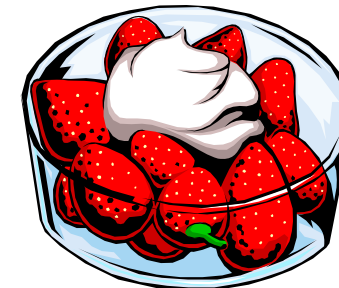
**128<sup>th</sup>**

**Strawberry Festival**

**4:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Saturday, June 19**

**Please plan to attend.**



## NOTE FROM PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Your church leadership has spent a lot of time the past year discussing, studying, and planning in anticipation of a transitional time with Jessica Harris leaving us this summer. It began last September when the church council decided to enter into a coaching opportunity through Luther Seminary called Exemplary Youth Ministry which is based on research done in congregations who were considered strong in their ministry to young people. Participating in this seminar are council members Lisa Boe, Bill Walker, and Sini Ross along with Julie Kadrie, Dagmar Meinders, and Pr. Isaacson. Four other churches from around the metro region also participated.

Prior years budgeting issues resulted in decisions to reduce current staffing structures from a 20-hour/week Children's Ministry Director to 15-hour/week and a 30-hour/week Youth Ministry Director to 20-hour/week. While we were able to maintain an existing program structure we have concerns about time for creativity, collaboration with staff and committees, and seeking to build on our base of Sunday School and Confirmation ministries.

Surveys were conducted with church leadership, youth, parents, and other members to identify strength and growth areas. Instruction from Luther Seminary assisted participants in seeing a vision of faith formation ministry concerning the First Third of Life (those birth to young adult) and common threads that wove throughout these early developmental years in building a mature Christian faith.

Our vision is that Memorial Lutheran Church actively engages in the faith formation of those in their First Third of Life (birth to young adult). We have previously done work in this direction

through the Youth and Family Institute a few years ago. We have quite a few things in place that already are a part of our current faith formation structure. Children are baptized into this community of faith in worship. Third graders are prepared to read scripture and receive Bibles in a worship recognition. First communion is taught with children and parents at the fifth grade and recognized in worship. Confirmands are involved in weekly instruction, service opportunities, and engage in a mentor program during Lent. Senior High take a mission trip opportunity in the summer.

Some things we look forward to expanding this ministry include training and equipping adults in nurturing faith and providing parents with tools to encourage faith development in the home. We seek to further grow our intergenerational ministry and focus on our mission to be Christ for others beyond Memorial's walls.

As such, the church council accepted the recommendation of the Exemplary Youth Task force to discontinue the two director model we currently staff and move to one Director of Faith Formation at 35-hour/week. The benefits of this will:

- Provide continuity as we move children through Sunday School to Confirmation and onto Senior High.
- Provide a stronger leadership presence at church, committee meetings, and relationships.
- Provide a strong lay structure to support a ministry to those in their First Third of Life.
- Continue to build on our current strengths as we seek to improve areas of growth.
- Enable more collaborative work with other staff, committees, and other mission agencies.

We look forward to calling an individual to fill this new position. We ask for your

prayers as we enter a process of applications, interviews, and final selection. Our hope is to have someone in place by September 1 or earlier. If you have any questions, please contact me or any of our church council members for more information.

Peace, Pr. Isaacson

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWZ!



*--finishing the year with a  
BANG!--*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL – Here's to our Bible Heroes!!!

Well, we've spent the SS Year learning about many of the AMAZING HEROES OF THE BIBLE – Noah, Joseph, David, Moses, and now SAUL/PAUL. It always is inspiring to me to see how God could take a Christian HATER and PERSECUTOR and turn him completely around to become one of the main authors of the Bible and one of the most important witnesses for Christ in the early Church! It speaks so clearly that God can use EVERY PERSON to do His Work in this world and that it's never too late to give God control of our lives!

On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'll have a "Hero Celebration" as we give thanks for an exciting year of Sunday School and challenge ourselves to be GOD'S HEROES in the world TODAY!

If you haven't been a part of our Sunday School program this year, please come and *check it out!*

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Angie Podgorski, Susan Orpen, the Kroschel's,

Mueller's and Bjork's, Ruth Ann Michnay, Kristen Isaacson, Kathleen Beane and Marilyn Chinook, plus ALL THE YOUTH who helped with Openings, Shepherding, etc. for the MOSES and SAUL/PAUL rotations!

## SS TEACHER and STAFF APPRECIATION BRUNCH – Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.



In appreciation and honor of everyone who had a part – big or small – in our 2009 – 2010 Sunday School program, the Sunday School

Committee will be hosting an Appreciation Brunch in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> between worship services (9:30 a.m.). Please bring your whole family and come be recognized for your service!

## PRAYER SUNDAY MAY 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.



Everyone is invited to come to the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> as our Sunday School Youth lead a special "Prayer Sunday" service! The kids will be sharing some of the things they have learned in

Sunday School throughout the year and will sing a special "Lord's Prayer" song with sign language. It promises to be a wonderful worship experience!

## CAMP WAPO MAY STILL HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!



Even if you missed the deadline to sign up for Camp Wapo, you may still be able to register and attend! This year's camp theme is "JESUS SAID... An

Adventure in the Book of John!" Our dates for camp are July 18-23 for 4<sup>th</sup>

grade and up, and July 16-18 for the Seeds weekend (Grades 2-3). Pick up a flier or see Jess or Jan if you have questions – SCHOLARSHIPS are available for those attending camp – please speak to Bill Walker if your camper is 6<sup>th</sup> grade or under or Jess Harris if you have a camper older than 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **BIRTHDAY BAGS for Valley Outreach**



The Sunday School youth are once again collecting birthday items and gift bags to make BIRTHDAY BAGS for Valley Outreach. The project will culminate on PRAYER SUNDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Cake mixes, frosting, birthday candles, books, toys, gifts, gift cards, gift bags and more are needed! THANKS to Michelle Bjorkman and Claudia Josephson, as well as Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, for their help with this special project again this year!

## **POOL PARTY** **Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1-4 p.m.**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and MAKE A SPLASH at our FAMILY POOL PARTY on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Super 8 Motel (808 Dominion Drive) in Hudson! We'll meet at the pool and enjoy swimming and a pizza party afterwards. Cost is \$5 per person, with a family max of \$15.

Questions? Please contact Jan Winkler at 651-230-3810 or [winkler.janice@gmail.com](mailto:winkler.janice@gmail.com). THANKS!

## **SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Hey, Kids!** Don't miss out on the fun this summer at Summer Sunday School! We'll be featuring some awesome

Bible Stories with skits, crafts, treats, and more! Kids will begin in worship at 9:30 a.m. and will be dismissed for SSS right after the Children's Message on Sundays, June 13 and 27 and July 11 and 25.

*Anyone interested in leading or helping with these special large-group Sunday School events, please contact Jan Winkler at 651-230-3810 or [winkler.janice@gmail.com](mailto:winkler.janice@gmail.com). THANKS!*



## **VBS '10 – HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION will set sail AUGUST 9-13!**

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS and GET YOUR BOARDING PASSES SOON for what promises to be one of the *WILDEST WEEKS* of your summer! At HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION VBS, we'll be exploring the MIGHTY LOVE OF GOD, and discover how God's Word is TRUE, COMFORTING, SURPRISING, LIFE-CHANGING, and FOR EVERYONE! Awesome crafts, games, music, skits, and snacks are all a part of each day, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. All youth, ages 3 – those completing 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend. Older youth and Adult Volunteers are also especially important, so please plan now to be a part of our High Seas Expedition VBS!

*We once again have been blessed by a grant from THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS so that our older VBS youth can continue last year's NINTENDO WII PROJECT with the residents of White Pines Senior Living Center in Cottage Grove. We'll be purchasing additional controllers and nunchucks for them and teaching them some new games! VERY AWESOME!*

## **VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

It's no small feat to put together the AWESOME EXPERIENCE kids will have this summer at our HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION VBS! And, the only way to pull it off is to have LOTS of CHRIST-LOVIN', KID-LOVIN' VOLUNTEERS join the CREW!

We'll need leaders and helpers for each ACTIVITY CENTER (Story, Music, Crafts, Recreation/Games, Snacks, and Chadder's Theater) as well as GROUP GUIDES to help lead the kids from station to station throughout the morning. We'll also need some "special crews" to take photos, coordinate registration, and lead special events, such as the "High Seas Waterpark" and the "Raging River Obstacle Course." As a continuation of the special NINTENDO WII PROJECT from last year's VBS, we have been given a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to purchase additional controllers and nunchucks for White Pines Senior Living Center in Cottage Grove, as well as some new games recommended for use by the elderly. Our oldest VBS youth will spend time during the week learning to play the new games and then spend a few hours one morning toward the end of the week at White Pines, teaching the residents the new games, and sharing God's love with them. Chaperons will be needed for this trip as well.

*Please speak with Jan Winkler (651-230-3810 or [winkler.janice@gmail.com](mailto:winkler.janice@gmail.com)) if you can help any or all of the days!*

## **VBS DONATIONS APPRECIATED!**

A major goal of VBS is not only to provide an awesome and fun Bible learning experience for the young people of Memorial Lutheran Church, but to reach out with God's love to others in the

surrounding communities, especially those who may have had no previous church experience or have never heard of God's amazing love for them!

In order to do this, we are trying to keep the cost per person for VBS to a minimum, while still offering awesome crafts, snacks, and special activities. As specific crafts and snack items are chosen, we will be putting out a list of needs and inviting the congregation to help donate needed items. We will also be accepting monetary donations to help defray VBS costs and to provide scholarships for families who might not be able to afford VBS for their child/children. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Jan Winkler at 651-230-3810 or [winkler.janice@gmail.com](mailto:winkler.janice@gmail.com). Checks can be left in the Church Office with VBS Donation written on the memo line. THANKS! *TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*

## **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING**

### **FIRST COMMUNION RECEIVED**

Congratulations to Breanna Boe, Riley Anderson, and Scott Beane as they received their FIRST COMMUNION on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Rick Hardy for leading this class! May God continue to richly bless these young people in their faith journey!

### **MOUNTAINS OF MEALS –**

I apologize for not knowing specific numbers or poundage, but I can tell you that LOTS of wonderful items and money were donated to Valley Outreach Food Shelf during March's "Mountains of Meals" project! THANK YOU for sharing God's love in this special way!

### **EASTER JOURNEY – Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>!**

This year's Easter Journey was an amazing success, thanks first to God, and then to all of the wonderful people who helped prepare items and lead the various stations! Special thanks to the Mueller family, Josh Kadrie, and

Natalie Gjerme for putting on the Shadow Drama, to Bonnie Dordal for all her work on the crafts, to Randy Roen, Gerry Engebretson, Lee Dordal, and Peter Irvine for setting up the booths, and to Kathy Irvine, Sarah Prunty, Susan Orpen, the Rea family, the Bjorkman's, and all of the youth who helped!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR -- SUMMER 2010

**MAY 2** HOME WEEK  
**MAY 9 (MOTHER'S DAY)** HOME WEEK / COOKIE SUNDAY  
**MAY 16** SS TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION BRUNCH – 9:30am  
 PRAYER SUNDAY / SS KIDS SING – 10:30am  
**MAY 23** SS BIBLE HERO CELEBRATION  
**MAY 30** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.  
**JUNE 6** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.  
**JUNE 13** SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 a.m.  
**JUNE 19 (SAT.)** STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  
**JUNE 20** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m. / FATHER'S DAY  
**JUNE 27** SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 a.m.  
**JULY 4** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.  
 FOURTH OF JULY PARADE & PARKING  
**JULY 11** SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 a.m.  
**JULY 18** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.  
**JULY 25** SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 a.m.  
**AUGUST 1** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.  
**AUGUST 7(SAT.)** VBS SET-UP AND DECORATING  
**AUGUST 8** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m. (VBS TEACHER INSTALLATION)  
**AUGUST 9-13(MON-FRI)** VBS "HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION"  
**AUGUST 11(WEDS.)** OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN AFTON CITY PARK

**AUGUST 15** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m. (VBS SUNDAY)

**AUGUST 22** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.

**AUGUST 29** WORSHIP – 9:30 a.m.

**EVERYONE'S WELCOME! – BE SURE TO INVITE A FRIEND!**

## YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

### Montana Summer Mission Trip Meeting



Wednesday, May 5.  
 Meet at church at 6pm.  
 We'll go out for dinner somewhere fun and share in some group time together. Be sure to bring any questions you might have about the trip. We'll return to church by 8:30pm. Please don't miss this meeting. Let Jess know if you have a conflict.

### Spring Luncheon for women and girls of all ages.



Saturday, May 8, 11:30am.  
 Come for a morning of great food, friends, and fun. We'll remember the past with a fashion show of members' wedding dresses; we'll look to the future with our panel discussion on relationships; and we'll have a great time in the present sharing brunch and a lesson on floral arranging. Bring your mom, daughter, sisters, aunts, friends. Wedding dress models needed—let Jess or Lisa Boe know if you'd like to help.

### Youth Exemplar Coaching Session

Tuesday, May 11 from 5-9pm at Luther Seminary. If you would like to join our Faith Formation Visioning Team at our final coaching session with experts in the world of ministry with young people, please let Jess or Lisa Boe know. We'd love for more people to come and find out

what's cooking around Memorial around ministry in the first third of life. This is your chance to get in the know.



### Super Cold Car Wash

Sunday, May 23 during the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Drop your keys off with our wash team and leave worship to find your car sparkling clean! All proceeds will benefit our youth traveling to Montana for our summer mission trip this June. If you'd like to help wash cars, please contact Jess. Montana trip goers must be present to help if they'd like to earn money toward their trip account.

### Montana Summer Mission Trip



Saturday, June 19-Saturday, June 26. Eleven youth and two adults from Memorial will travel to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana for five days of service and relationships among the people of Lame Deer, MT. We can't wait to come back and share our stories from this faith journey experience!

## THANK YOU/ WEDDING SHOWER FOR JESS HARRIS

Please join us Sunday morning, May 23, as we honor and give thanks for Jess Harris' ministry among us. While her resignation as Director of Youth Ministries will be effective June 30, she has a few things in the works in June. She is marrying Trey Daum on June 12. She will be leading our youth on a mission trip starting June 19. She is also preparing for her pastoral internship in Denver, Colorado.

Bring your gifts, cards, and well-wishes on May 23 as we celebrate together and ask God's blessings for her future.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

### Evening Bible Study Fellowship

May 10, 7p.m., at Barbara Ronningen's home, 436-5881

### Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

May 11, 9:30 a.m., at Connie Johnson's home, 436-8903  
 June 8, at 9:30, at church, Marge Petry hostess, 436-5790

All women welcome to join us. This year the morning group has been studying the book of Romans.

THANK YOU to everyone who brought items for the LWR Health Kits, we had enough items for 17 kits and many extra items. Dagne Christenson and Nancy Johnson represented Memorial Lutheran at the Saint Paul Synods Women's Convention. At the convention, 150 kits were collected and \$700.00 for shipping kits. In joining together we do make a difference. Thank you.

### Buds & Blossoms Spring Luncheon



Ladies & Girls, you are invited Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM, to a delicious lunch followed by a Fashion Show of wedding gowns belonging to our family and friends.

A panel discussion on marriage and relationships will be lead by Jessica Harris and creative floral designer, Bonnie Dordal, will demonstrate leading edge designs and help us to design an arrangement to take home. For reservations call Mona Capuzzi at 651-436-7335.

## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 2010



## Looking for a berry, berry good time?

Memorial's great summer get-together – its annual **Strawberry Festival** – is scheduled. Saturday, **June 19, 4-7 PM**. Plan now:

Mark your Calendar

Spread the word

Volunteer to help with preparations, serving or cleanup

On June 19 – just seven weeks away – Memorial will hold its annual Strawberry Festival. Now marking its 128<sup>th</sup> year, the festival has become a church tradition. Here's the story behind it:

As far as we know, Memorial's strawberry festival is the oldest church or community tradition in the area.

It began in 1883, when members of Afton's Swedish Lutheran Church celebrated midsummer's day, a Scandinavian cultural tradition, with a potluck in a member's backyard. Two years later, the congregation moved its celebration to church grounds. The members set their food on 20 foot tables crudely constructed by driving fence posts into the ground and placing splintery boards on top. They sat on benches similarly made.

For the first 40 years or so, most members came to the festival by horse and buggy. They tethered their horses in barns west of the church. Close to the barns, under a large oak tree, the farmers mixed the lemonade in a large 30 gallon crock and turned the ice cream. Nearby, their wives cleaned the plump, juicy, locally grown strawberries.

The festivals featured strawberries because they were one of the area's primary crops until the 1934-35 drought depleted production. After that, most patches fed only the growers' families. Nevertheless, members continued to supply strawberries for the gathering until 1961 when planners began to buy them.

The biggest change in the festival occurred in 1932, when, while remodeling the church, the congregation installed kitchen equipment. This allowed them to cook the meal at the church. Contributors began supplying ingredients rather than prepared dishes, and organizers changed the menu to that still used today: ham, potato salad, Swedish rye bread, baked beans, rolls, relishes, cake, coffee, Kool Aid, and strawberries and cream. At the same time, members began inviting non-member friends and acquaintances.

Eventually, the church collected a free-will offering for the meal and used the proceeds for its building programs or ministerial work. After building the Fellowship Center in the sixties, the congregation began inviting the general public. The event remains a community affair to this day.

**Plan to attend this year's festival, Saturday, June 19, 4-7 PM.** Besides strawberries and a ham dinner, you will enjoy live music entertainment, a book sale, and a bake sale featuring fresh, home-baked goodies and strawberries.

**Better yet, volunteer to help with the festival.** You'll find that working side-by-side with your fellow Memorial members is a truly social event and a very good time.

## XYZ'S (Extra Years of Zest)



X Y Z Club, for seniors 55 years and older, meets every Tuesday morning at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. Cards will be played at 9:00 AM with a coffee break at 10:00 AM, followed by more card playing until noon. Programs will be announced as they develop. For information, registration or cancellation, call Laura Fritsche at 651-730-1076 by 9:00 AM on Mondays.

## LIBRARY NEWS



Once again the Church Library is going to have a used book sale during the Strawberry Festival, June 19<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go into the Library Fund which is used to purchase new material for our Library.

Please check all your bookshelves, DVD and CD shelves for anything you might not want anymore. These can be donated for the sale and dropped off at the library at any time. Last year, we raised \$250 which was used instead of our budgeted church allowance, for library supplies and new material. Please continue to use your church library. We are always getting new items in. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at the Strawberry Festival.

The items listed below are missing from the Church Library. Please check your shelves at home. If you find them, please return them to the basket in the Library. Thank you!

The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman (J. Fiction)  
Where God Was Born by Bruce Feiler (non-fiction)  
The Star of Bethlehem (DVD)

## SPRING CLEAN UP DAY & HIGHWAY CLEAN UP



Spring Clean Up Day and Highway Clean Up will be Saturday, **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, from **8:00 AM till Noon**. Come help shine up your church inside and out. Bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, anything to make cleaning easy. We will have "Coffee Break Treats!" This is a great fellowship time. See you there!

## THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Join members of Memorial, men and women – young and younger, the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>. (Minimum age 16 – supervised with appropriate age adult). The address and location of our building is in Oakdale. **NEEDED:** a maximum of 15-18 volunteers each day.

Please sign-up on the sheet posted at Memorial or through our contact people coordinating this event: Elise Winter, Jerry Beedle, and Gary Anderson. Further information will be provided through our weekly Bulletin announcements and communication during Worship.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee provides planning and oversight for the maintenance and capital improvements of Memorial's building, ground, and general physical environment. We work to make our facility welcoming, warm, and safe for everyone. The committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM. The meetings are held at the church and include following up on projects that are taking place around the church, discussing potential problems or areas to improve, and discussing general maintenance items. Anyone interested in the care of the building and grounds can participate or serve on the committee. Contact Neil Clymer or come to the next meeting.

## THANK YOU



Thank you so much for all the sympathy cards and notes I received. Also a special thank you to the kitchen ladies who helped for Al's funeral. It was truly appreciated. Arline DeWall

## SUMMER SCHEDULE



MLC will begin its summer schedule Sunday, **May 30<sup>th</sup>**, with one service at **9:30 AM**.

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, the church office hours will:

Monday	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM