

# THE MONITOR

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lindsborg, Kansas

Volume 103, Issue 7

July 2011



402 N. First St, Lindsborg, KS 67456

Office: 785-227-3977

Email: [mlchurch@mlc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:mlchurch@mlc.kscoxmail.com)

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

Pastor Dean Apel, cell: 212-0849

Mary Bridges, PMA, cell: 227-5747

## 2011 COUNCIL

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President               | Marc Anderson   |
| Vice-President          | Joy Everhart    |
| Secretary               | Mary Jo Roch    |
| Treasurer               | Lisa Youngquist |
| Inside/Outside Property | Muriel Gentine  |
| Finance                 | Lisa Youngquist |
| Worship and Music       | Jeanne Ahlers   |
| Stewardship             | Joy Everhart    |
| Christian Education     | Ted Kessinger   |
| Youth                   | Nick Brumbaugh  |
| Outreach and Caring     | Mary Jo Roch    |
| Fellowship              | Jan Ferguson    |
| Social Ministry         | Phil Hett       |
| Staff Relations         | Brian Anderson  |
| Global Mission          | Mijkin Haxton   |

## Inside This Issue

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Pastor Dean. . . . .                       | pg 1,2 |
| Birthdays, and Anniversaries . . . . .     | pg 2   |
| Thriven Bus Trip, Quilt Auction . . . . .  | pg 3   |
| Message from Mary, Adult Studies . . . . . | pg 4   |
| Woman's News. . . . .                      | pg 5   |
| Youth News. . . . .                        | pg 6   |
| Gloria Sauck Missionary. . . . .           | pg 7   |
| Council Minutes . . . . .                  | pg 8,9 |
| Global Missions, Planned Giving . . . . .  | pg 10  |
| Letter from President Leonard . . . . .    | pg 11  |
| Calendar and Worship Assistants. . . . .   | insert |

## The Authoritative Source and Norm of Our Proclamation, Faith and Life

This month we continue a series on important parts of our constitution.

### "Chapter 2 CONFESSIONS OF FAITH

3. This congregation accepts the **canonical Scriptures** of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life."

This is a rather short excerpt from our constitution, but it is so important that it deserves highlighting. It tells us where we get authoritative guidance for what we say and proclaim at Messiah, for what we believe and for how we live. Here are some important things to notice about it:

- a. We confess that the **origin** of the Scriptures is **God Himself**. They are inspired by God (breathed into by God). "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." (Paul, 2 Timothy 3:16). "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- b. We confess that the **canonical Scriptures** are God's Word. There were other writings circulating at the same time our Scriptures were written. There have been other things written about God before and since. And many of these writings are helpful in leading us into the Scriptures. Some of them are not. But even those which are most helpful are not authoritative in and of themselves. Instead, they are authoritative only insofar as they lead us into the Scriptures. (See elsewhere in this newsletter a diagram of which 39 books are the canonical OT and which 27 books are the canonical Scriptures of the NT.)
- c. What does it mean that the Scriptures are the authoritative **source** for our proclamation, faith and life? It means that we go to the Scriptures first when we need to decide something or to plan to proclaim, believe or live. People in other religions and even in other Christian confessions may prioritize other authoritative sources such as *experience* ("what I feel in my heart"; empirical science; spiritual revelations, dreams or visions; what makes me feel good); *reason*; or *tradition* (what the church has said or done before). None of these things are bad in and of themselves, but they are not whither we go to find what to proclaim, believe and how to live.
- d. What does it mean that the Scriptures are the authoritative **norm** for our proclamation, faith and life? It means that whatever one actually says, believes or does is to be judged by the Scriptures. "We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone...." (*Epitome of the Formula of Concord*, p. 486) So the only way to determine the validity of a teaching, belief or lifestyle choice for our congregation is the Scriptures.
- e. There are many **pitfalls to Biblical authority** today. For a variety of reasons, including doubt about the Bible's supernatural origin and the fact

(*con't from front page*) that Christians disagree about what the Scriptures mean, it is difficult for the Bible to exercise its proper authority today. But the most dangerous pitfalls of all are when we don't allow time for the Bible to speak to us or when we don't allow it to change our lives. We prioritize other activities (many of which are very wholesome) over proclamation of the Bible and Bible study (group and individual). If the Bible is going to be an authority in our individual lives and in the life of our congregation, we will have to devote much time and energy to giving it free reign among us. On disputed points, we will need to come together to discuss with each other seeking the true intent of God in each passage. When God's written Word, the Bible, is given free reign in our lives, it will create faith (Romans 10:17). Allowing ourselves to be interpreted by the Scriptures, living our lives in the story of the Scriptures, letting God author our lives, that's what Scriptural authority is all about. But this takes time and energy. Join us here at least weekly for Biblical preaching! Try to read at least a verse of the Bible every day! Join one of our many Bible studies!

f. Finally, **Lutherans** have several **distinctive approaches** to the Bible. For example, *law and gospel*. ("This difference between the Law and the Gospel is the height of knowledge in Christendom. Every person and all persons who assume or glory in the name of Christian should know and be able to state this difference." - Luther, *Sermon on Galatians*, 1522) If we allow the Scriptures to have authority in our lives, they will hurt sometimes, they will direct us to give up some things we love or to do some things we hate. At the same time, the Scriptures are a treasure map, pointing us to **the gospel and to Jesus, their center**, the source of our life and hope.

Let us live up to our constitution and be a congregation and a people who highly regard, respect, use, obey, find life in and are transformed by God's Word, the Scriptures. May God Himself bless us to keep us steadfast in His Word! - *Pastor Dean*

## SPIRITUAL INSOMNIA

Studies show that most Americans don't get adequate sleep. Whether an overcrowded schedule or insomnia is to blame, the short-and long-term effects are alarming. It's tough to maintain a healthy mind and body when you're sleep deprived.

Likewise, we required sufficient, regular quiet time with God to stay spiritually healthy. Even Jesus needed time alone with God. Luke 5:16 says Jesus withdrew to deserted places to pray. Think how much more we need to listen for God's voice and learn from His Word.

## Vital Statistics

**Dorothe G. Carlson**, passed away June 6, 2011, memorial service at Messiah June 20, 2011

**Elston Flohr**, passed away Sunday, June 12, 2011

**Kimberly Prockish** was named Outstanding Female Young Kansan of the Year by Hutchinson Community College. She was selected by the administration, teachers, and support staff of HCC. Kimberly has been a Student Ambassador in the Admissions Office, active in Circle K, a student government representative and President; was secretary and assisted in forming the new KNEA future teacher group, a residential hall assistant; attended Hutchinson Rotary International meetings, worked in the Admissions Office and was selected to be the Winter Homecoming Queen. Kimberly is the daughter of Tim and Anna Prockish. She will attend Bethany College in the fall (2011), majoring in secondary English education.



On June 12, we were blessed to have **Dr. Helen Miehle**, a Wycliffe Bible Translator working in Indonesia, with us during worship and to share with us during the Sunday School hour. If you would like to know more about Helen or follow her ministry in your prayers, contact her to be put on her newsletter list.

*email:* Helen\_Miehle@wycliffe.org  
Helen Miehle c/o Olbrantz  
15033 Neartree Rd; La Mirada, CA 90638

## Thrivent One-Day Bus Trip to Concordia, Kansas

**Thursday, September 1, 2011**

Tour includes:

Bus trip with pick-up in McPherson at Grace Lutheran at 8:00 am and Lindsborg at Bethany Lutheran at 8:30 am

- Tour National Orphan Train Museum
- Tour Brown Grand Theater - (Restored Opera House)
- Lunch at Huckleberry Teahouse
- Tour Nazareth Convent - Home of Sisters of St. Joseph
- Whole Wall Mural/Museum
- Supper in Salina

**Cost \$30.00 per person**

**Contact Bud Benson**



## Camp Tomah Shinga Quilt Auction

**Saturday, July 9, 2011 10:00 am**

Join in this exciting day for our 10th Annual Quilt Auction! The day promises good food, great fun and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of Camp Tomah Shinga. The auction and barbecue will be held rain or shine. Bring your friends and families! Quilts will be on display by 9:00 am. The auction begins at 10:00 am. We will continue until all quilts are sold. The quilts will have numbered cards attached indicating the order in which they will be auctioned. This way bidders can approximate when their favorite quilts will be up for auction. The cards also include information about the quilt donor and the size, type and design of the quilt. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am.

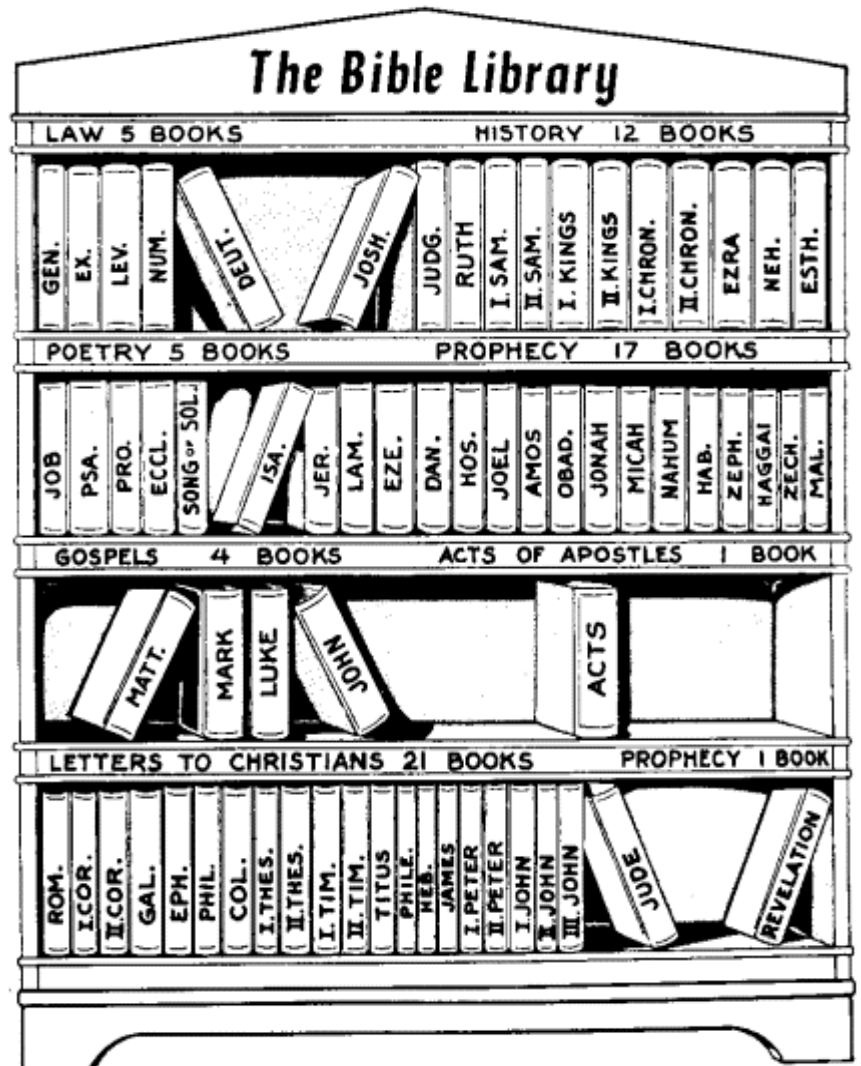
[www.tomahshinga.com](http://www.tomahshinga.com)



## READ AHEAD!

2011 Lectionary

|              |         | <i>1st Lesson</i> | <i>Psalm</i> | <i>Epistle (Romans)</i> | <i>Gospel (Matthew)</i> | <i>Gospel Theme</i>                |
|--------------|---------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 post Pent  | July 3  | Zechariah 9:9-12  | 145: 8-14    | 7:15-25a                | 11:1-19                 | dancing God's dance                |
| 4 post Pent  | July 10 | Isaiah 55:10-13   | 65:1-13      | 8:1-11                  | 13:1-9, 18-23           | the parable of soils               |
| 5 post Pent  | July 17 | Isaiah 44:6-8     | 86: 11-17    | 8:12-25                 | 13:24-30, 36-43         | weeds and wheat                    |
| 6 post Pent  | July 24 | 1 Kings 3:5-12    | 119: 129-136 | 8:26-39                 | 13:31-33, 44-52         | the kingdom's hiddenness           |
| 7 post Pent  | Aug 7   | 1 Kings 19:9-18   | 85:8-13      | 10:5-15                 | 14:22-33                | J walks on water and calms a storm |
| 8 post Pent  | Aug 14  | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  | 67           | 11:1-2a, 29-32          | 15:10-28                | true purity                        |
| 9 post Pent  | Aug 21  | Isaiah 51:1-6     | 138          | 12:1-8                  | 16:13-20                | Peter's confession                 |
| 10 post Pent | Aug 28  | Jeremiah 15:15-21 | 26:1-8       | 12:9-21                 | 16:21-28                | Passion prediction                 |



## Message from Mary....

I am one of those strange people who like conventions.

One reason I enjoy attending Synod Assembly is the opportunity to visit with friends from around the synod and catch up on what is happening in their lives. I also enjoy the opportunity to learn from Bible study presenters and speakers from different expressions of the ELCA as it gives me a chance to hear and learn from other perspectives.

The theme for this year's assembly was *Shaping the Church for God's Mission—Igniting Spirits and Building Bridges*. Here is a portion of Bishop Gerald Mansholt's report which I think gives all of us food for thought...

"These are **stressful days** in the Church in all our expressions—in congregations, synods, and church-wide ministries, in seminaries, colleges, and social ministry organizations. Major shifts in cultural attitudes have made growing and sustaining congregational life more difficult. Fewer people in worship and on membership roles has made stewardship of ministries of the larger Church more difficult. The economic crisis of the last two years has taken an enormous toll on families of our congregations, and the resources to support congregation, synodical and churchwide ministries have suffered. Finally, the reaction to the church-wide decisions of 2009 to amend the ministry policies to allow for full inclusion of gay and lesbian persons on the roster of ministers of the ELCA has led some people to leave our congregations, while some congregations voted to end their affiliation with the ELCA and others chose to withhold or redirect their mission support. These three forces all happening at the same time has led to a perfect storm that has tested our life together.

In recent weeks religion has been in the news and not in a positive light. Harold Camping of Family Radio Ministry had predicted Judgment Day would occur on May 21, with Christ returning as major earthquakes erupted around the globe. Billboards, newspaper and television ads proclaimed the End. In my *Bishop's Message* to congregations for the weekend of this synod assembly, I noted that in the First Lesson for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, a reading from Acts 1, gives us a different kind of job

description. We are to be His witnesses, not to the end of the world, but to the ends of the earth. "**You shall be my witnesses,**" He proclaims before He ascends to heaven.

Our calling is to stay focused on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to know from whom our life comes and to what we have been called. Because God raised Jesus from the dead and poured out His Holy Spirit upon us, we know that we are people *Changed by Love, Sent in Love to Serve*. During this past year, as a synod we have sought to live into the life and future God is giving us to be shaped by God's love and empowered by His Spirit."

One way to stay focused on Christ, is to do as Martin Luther prescribed it in his *Small Catechism*, "In the morning when you rise (In the evening when you go to bed) you shall bless yourself with the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen."

*Grace and Peace,*  
*ME*

## Adult Studies in July

**Adult Sunday School (Sunday, 11 am, Fellowship Hall) *Here and Now, There and Then*** - Beth Moore Study on Revelation.

A Bible study on **Thessalonians** is held 1st and 3rd Sundays at 4:30 pm (see weekly schedule). You are welcome to join us! Venues change from week to week, so watch the bulletin for more information.

A Bible study on **Genesis** meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:15 pm for **GenXer's**. In July, we will meet only on **July 10th** at the Apels' (231 N. Main). For more information or to register your interest, communicate with Pastor Dean.

Men meet every **Saturday morning** at 8:00 am for a Bible study. We are presently discussing the Gospel of **Luke**.

**Do you have small odd jobs that need to be done? If so, please contact the church office and request the services of Messiah's Yellow shirts.**





## Women's News

No Circle Meetings  
June, July, and August

Hannah-Martha



Mary-Ruth Circles

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will be taking a break for the summer months and will resume in the Fall.



### MENDING AT BETHANY HOME

Tuesday — July 12 and July 26 —  
1:30 pm. Please contact Marilyn Sjogren (227-2432) if you can help. This doesn't require technical sewing skills. Just basic things, like sewing on buttons or mending a torn seam.



### WANTED...

**DELEGATE:** The Woman's Ministry Committee is looking for a woman to serve as our delegate to the Central States Synodical Convention to be held in Great Bend, September 23-25. As our delegate, your registration and room will be paid for. The theme of the convention is: "Rejoice." There will be worship, workshops, and more. A quarter of the offering will go to Kans for Kids and pledges from Stretch-Splash-Pray will go to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. In-kind gifts and our Friday service project are designated for Camp Hope. If you would be willing to be a delegate, please contact Mary.

**VOLUNTEERS:** As part of the Central States Women of the ELCA Convention they are asking each congregational unit to donate a small basket of items to be auctioned off for the Barbara Nelson Scholarship Fund. This fund provides scholarships to women attending Triennial Gatherings. If you would be willing to put together a small themed basket, please contact Mary.

[mbridges@mlc.ksexmail.com](mailto:mbridges@mlc.ksexmail.com) or

**227-5747 before July 31<sup>st</sup>!!!**

### SCRAPBOOKING AND CRAFT NIGHT FRIDAY—July 8—6:00 pm to midnight

All women of Messiah and their guests are invited to join us for our monthly Scrapbooking and Craft Night. Our hours are 6:00 p.m. to midnight. At 6:30 pm we will enjoy a light supper. Last month's stone salad was such a hit we will do it again. Salad greens will be provided and everyone is asked to bring their favorite salad ingredient or crackers. Drinks are also provided. Please bring a snack to share. Scrapbooking tools are available for your use, including a Cricut cutting system. You simply need to bring your pictures, memorabilia, albums, paper and/or embellishments. We have experienced scrapbookers available to help beginners. If you don't scrapbook, please bring your current craft project, sewing, or mending and join us. Or stop by and say "HI" and have a snack with us. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! QUESTIONS?? CALL MARY 227-5747.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND!!!!**



Scrapbooking



## RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE WOMEN'S RETREAT SATURDAY, JULY 31-9 AM-3PM

Plans are being made for our woman's retreat. All women of Messiah and their guests are invited to join us for the entire day or come to the morning session and lunch or come for lunch and stay for the afternoon session. Lunch will be served at noon. There will be Bible study, and a variety of activities. At this point activities we have planned include: our prayer room, encouragement boxes, small scrapbooks, beads made from paper, knitting, to name just a few. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray costs. Please RSVP by July 20, to the Messiah church office at 227-3977 so we will have an idea of our lunch count. Contact Mary if you have any questions or would be willing to help.

## SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Join us at 5:30 pm on Saturday evenings in July for worship. We'll offer a variety of services all with contemporary music and instrumentation. If you would like to help with the services in any way (singing, playing, set-up, fellowship, Power Point), please contact Pastor Dean.

July 2, 5:30 pm - Service of the Word  
July 9, 5:30 pm - Holy Communion  
July 16, 5:30 pm - Service of the Word  
July 23, 5:30 pm - Holy Communion  
July 30, 5:30 pm - Service of the Word



## July 2011 Youth Events

**Thank you, thank you** - Thanks to everyone who helped with VBS. We couldn't do it without you, thanks so much for your gift of time. Thanks also for your leadership at the youth service on June 5. (From Holly, Joyce, Melissa, and Rebecca)

### Jr. and Sr. High

**Sunday, July 17, 8:00-10:00 pm Swim Party** - Come to the Bethany/Messiah Church Swim Party at the City Pool. Cost is \$2.00 per person. If the weather is bad, call the pool to see if the party is canceled, 227-2606. (Hosted by the Bethany Christian Education Committee)

**Monday, July 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm** Come make a new friend. The McPherson chapter of the "Ulster Project" will be "hanging out" at our church. Come hear the story of these teens from North Ireland. Come to the Messiah Youth Room, for visiting, pizza, and fun!

### Looking ahead

August 21, 9:45 am at Bethany, 10:45 at Messiah, parent/youth meeting for NYG

August 28, \$150 Deposit due for NYG, please give your check to Joyce or LeAnna.

August 28, 6:00 Gutter Sundaes, Youth Group KICK OFF for all Jr. and Sr. High

**NYG - National Youth Gathering** Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders - Juniors are eligible to attend the 2012 Youth Gathering, "Citizens with the Saints", in New Orleans, July 18 - 22. Plan now to attend. Start saving your pennies now, for this "once in a lifetime" trip.

LeAnna DeWitt; 227-3735; [ldsewwhat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ldsewwhat@sbcglobal.net)  
Joyce Peterson; 227-2201; [joycepeterson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycepeterson@sbcglobal.net)



*Pastor Dean returns to Kenya!*  
He will be teaching Pastoral Care of the Family to Master of Theology students at the Eldoret Satellite Campus of the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (Aug 15-19) and Marriage and Family to Bachelor of Theology students at the Karen campus of NEGST (Aug 22-26). Pray for him as he prepares for these intensive courses (5 hours/day for 5 days) and for the students as well. He plans to be back in the M.E.P.C. pulpit by Sunday, August 28. To learn more about NEGST, a part of Africa International University, navigate to

[www.NEGST.edu](http://www.NEGST.edu)



*When we don't have fresh news from Gloria Sauck, our missionary in Kenya, we will try to share some articles she has written in the past. Since 1992, Gloria Sauck has been working to establish and improve health care (especially eye care) in northern Kenya. Recently she has also taken on the responsibility of coordinating all the medical work in the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. I did my pastoral internship at Arsim 1990-1992 and left there just before Gloria arrived. - Pastor Dean*

**Open Your Eyes!** by Gloria Sauck,  
 Missionary of WMPL (reprinted with permission from  
*Fellow Workers, A Publication of the World Mission Prayer  
 League - A Lutheran Missionary Society, February 1995*)

When you have read about or prayed for the medical work at Arsim [Samburu, Northern Kenya] maybe you have not thought specifically about people with eye problems. However, month after month as I examine the statistics on our 'disease sheet,' I see 'eye diseases' always in the top five. For several years Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM) has been a project partner helping to financially support the Arsim dispensary's medical work. Eye medicines are requested more often than any others by community members at Arsim and at all our mobile clinic sites in surrounding areas. Concern for eye patients has been apart of the work for a long time. Therefore participants in the Medical Consultation at Arsim in February 1994 recommended that we improve and expand the eye work.

In the fall of 1993 the Samburu nurse working at Arsim successfully completed a CBM-sponsored 10-week eye course at Kikuyu Hospital to become an ophthalmic assistant. Since then the diagnosis, treatment and referral of eye cases has improved. An eye unit is part of the current building project at Arsim.

So that our eye program can be as strong and effective as possible, I too was encouraged to attend the course. Right now I am at Kikuyu Hospital, in the midst of the course and learning a lot of things. Most exciting is learning how to prevent eye diseases. I dream of seeing 'eye diseases' moved from the top five to the bottom five on the monthly list.

Since I have been studying about the eye, I have paid more attention in my Bible reading to passages which mention the eyes. In John 4:35 (NIV), a familiar missions verse, we are told by Jesus, 'I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.'

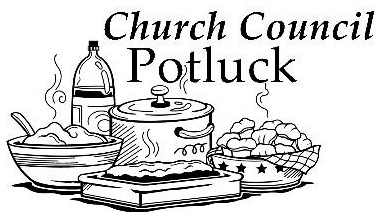
Often I have heard it said and have even said it myself these past few weeks at Kikuyu Hospital, 'Open your eyes and look straight ahead.' And how difficult that is to do when the eyes is sore and inflamed from infection or an irritating foreign body, or clouded with a cataract, or completely blind. That is why patients seek help from an eye specialist - in order to obtain healing so they can open their eyes and look, and see properly once again.

Sometimes we missionaries need our spiritual eyes healed so once again we can see the fields surrounding us. Our spiritual eyes can become sore and inflamed from the infection of sin. Other times Satan or circumstances bring irritants and distractions so we can't 'see' properly. Or our original vision becomes clouded with disappointment, discouragement and disillusionment slowly creeping in. Eventually we can become completely blind to the fields and ripe harvest surrounding us. We need the Great Physician's healing touch to be able to open our eyes and look and see what our Lord wants us to be doing.

I realize the irritating and distracting occurrences of recent months have hindered me from looking at the fields. Being involved in an armed robbery/ kidnapping incident and seeing dispensary funds stolen twice since then (with the resulting loss of a sense of safety and trust, and loss of finances, vehicle, and goods to carry on the medical work as it has been done in the past) have been a few of the irritating distractions.

As I experience the healing of my spiritual eyes I once again am able to open them and see the ripe fields still surrounding me and get involved in the harvesting. Within those fields are the eye patients we treat in Arsim and surrounding areas. I hope you will be in prayer with me as the eye work expands at Arsim so that the spiritual ministry to the Samburu and Rendille people we serve will expand as well."  
 (right) a woman named Santawa after a successful trichiasis surgery at Arsim





Sunday, July 31, at 7:00 in the South Park members of the church council and their families are invited to gather for our summer social. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share and table service for their family. Drinks will be provided. In case of rain we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

## MELC's Guiding Principles

**Jesus is Lord**

**Everyone is welcome**

**Love changes people**

**Everyone has gifts to offer**

**God sends us as servants to the world**

**We commit to grow in faith**

### ***Messiah Church Staff***

**Ministers:** All members of Messiah

**Pastor:** Dean Apel

**Parish Ministry Associate:** Mary Bridges

**Office Manager:** Sherry Peterson

**Maintenance:** Kenny Bridges

**Custodians:** Kenny Bridges, Ken Peterson

**Assistant Custodian:** Barb Malm

**Youth Directors:** LeAnna DeWitt, Joyce Peterson

**Choir Director:** Becky Anderson

**Organist:** Nic Carlson