



## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, December 10**

9:30 am Worship w/Communion  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Christmas Choir Rehearsal  
4:00 pm Christmas Dinner  
6:00 pm South District 12 Meeting

### **Monday, December 11**

**Tuesday, December 12**  
*National Poinsettia Day*



### **Wednesday, December 13**

### **Thursday, December 14**

1:00 pm Mountie Back Pack packing  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm NA

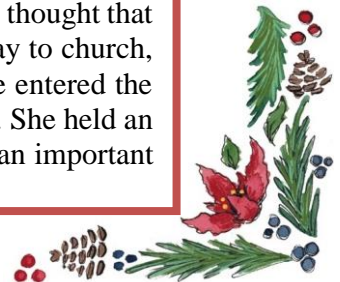
### **Friday, December 15**

### **Saturday, December 16**

9:00 am – noon White Gifts  
and Christmas Basket pick-up

### **The Legend of the Christmas Poinsettia**

According to old Mexican folklore, on Holy Night (Christmas Eve), the children bring gifts to church for the Christ Child. A poor peasant girl had no gift to bring. People told her not to worry, as it is the thought that counts. But, this was not enough for her. So, along the way to church, she picked some weeds to give to the Christ Child. As she entered the church, the weeds were transformed into beautiful flowers. She held an armful of red poinsettias. This is how poinsettias became an important floral symbol of the holiday season.



### **MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**December 6, 2023**

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### **Messiah's Annual Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**

**On the Menu:** Ham, Scalloped potatoes and refreshments.  
*Please bring a covered dish to share*



After dinner we will play a Christmas Bingo Game and sing some Christmas Carols. We hope you will come to share the meal and the fellowship.

### **Dates to remember:**

- Decemeber 10<sup>th</sup> -  
4:00 pm - Annual Christmas dinner
  - Christmas Basket monetary donations are due
  - White Gifts are due (make sure they are wrapped in white paper and the tag is attached)
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am – noon, White Gift and Christmas baskets pick – up in Bald Eagle Alley entrance
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – Decorating the Church immediately after Worship
- December 22 – Poinsetta set-up at 11:00am
- December 24<sup>th</sup> –
  - 9:30 am Sunday morning worship
  - 6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service with communion
  - 10:30 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion





**December 10, 2023**

**Service Assistants**

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Pam Eveleth; **Communion Assistant:** Rhonda Koch

**Acolyte:** Jonathan Hess; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser

**Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Michael and April Gardner

**Cantor:** Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

**Sunday, December 3;** Attendance: **93**; Offering: **\$7,002.00** Cap. Campaign: **\$70.00**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carl E. Fenstermacher on the anniversary of his birthday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, by his daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Thad Day.

**The Bud Vase** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Autumn Rundio's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, with love from Grammy and Pappy Bausinger.

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns in loving memory of Carl E. Fenstermacher's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on December 14<sup>th</sup>, by his wife Betty and family.

**Bible Reading**

**Sunday, December 10** – Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**Monday, December 11** – Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42

**Tuesday, December 12** – Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18

**Wednesday, December 13** - Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17

**Thursday, December 14** – Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11

**Friday, December 15** – Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16

**Saturday, December 16** - Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32



**Pastoral Care Number:** Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours the office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.



**Food Pantry** is in need of mac and cheese, boxed potatoes, canned fruit, dry milk, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, jelly, canned chicken, tuna fish, syrup, pancake mix and soup and cream of mushroom soup.

***Pledge cards and Time & Talent forms will be accepted through January 1<sup>st</sup>***

**All donations** to be recorded in the 2023 Calendar Year, must be received in the office by **December 29<sup>th</sup>**. Any donations received after **December 29<sup>th</sup>** will be recorded in the new year, 2024. Thank you.

**If you give to the church** through **Simply Giving/Vanco/Automatic deduction**, after your December donation, you will need to update your pledge. Thank you.





## **The Library Corner – Highlighted Books**



Family - **Family Devotions Celebrate Jesus! at Christmas** - These seasonal devotions bring the family together to contemplate and celebrate the real reason for the season. you and your family can discuss, interact and focus on Jesus through: Scripture readings, familiar songs and hymns, devotional thoughts, the lighting of the Advent Wreath. The devotions are appropriate for children ages 6-10.

**If you are interested in singing with the choir** on Christmas Eve, please let Jared or Candy know. *Thank you.*



**Soloists, instrumentalists or groups of people** interested in playing an instrument or singing on Christmas Eve please contact Jared Gist at 570-398-1674. Thank you!



**White Gifts and Christmas Basket monetary donations** are due Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to have your gifts wrapped in white paper and monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office. Please write “white gifts” or “Christmas baskets” in the memo on your checks. December 16<sup>th</sup> will be the pick-up day from 9-noon.



**Sunday, December 17** immediately following worship we will be decorating the church. Poinsettias will be set out **on Friday, December 21** at 11:00am. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex.

**Many hands make quick work. Please share your time and talents.**



*To all of my Messiah Lutheran family,  
Thanks for all my gifts, I have you all in my heart. You  
are all in my thoughts and prayers. Happy Holidays to  
you all. Blessings to all.*

*Love,*

*Roberta Merrick*

WELCA  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY



**December 12 at 11:00 am WELCA** will be having their Christmas Party at Ruth Doran's home, 77 Linvic Drive, Muncy. Please bring a dish to share and 2-3 white gifts.

