



## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, December 1

9:30 am Worship/Communion  
9:30 am Sunday School

### Monday, December 2

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee  
7:30 pm Worship and Music  
Committee

### Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm Council Dinner

### Wednesday, December 4

### Thursday, December 5

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm NA

### Friday, December 6

### Saturday, December 7

9:00 am Kids in Mission



The Season of *Advent*  
READING PLAN

*Hope*

- ◊ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◊ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◊ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◊ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◊ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◊ Day 6: Titus 2:11-3:8

*Joy*

- ◊ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◊ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◊ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◊ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◊ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◊ Day 18: John 15:1-11

*Peace*

- ◊ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◊ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◊ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◊ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◊ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◊ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

*Love*

- ◊ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◊ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◊ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◊ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◊ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◊ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
- ◊ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10

©2011 ChurchNet.com



## MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

Published each week by Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA. Publication Office, 324 South Howard Street. Entered as a periodical October 15, 1940, at the Post Office at Williamsport, PA under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Messiah Lutheran Church,  
324 South Howard Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702.



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

[www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org) Phone: 570-326-9171

e-mail address: [messiahoffice@comcast.net](mailto:messiahoffice@comcast.net)

**November 27, 2024**

**VOL. 82 – NO. 48**

## Kids in Mission

Children's Baking Day/Mini-Christmas Bible School

Saturday, December 7, 2024 ✦ 9:00 A.M.-12:00 noon

Age 4 through Grade 6

Come join us for a morning filled with a Christmas story,

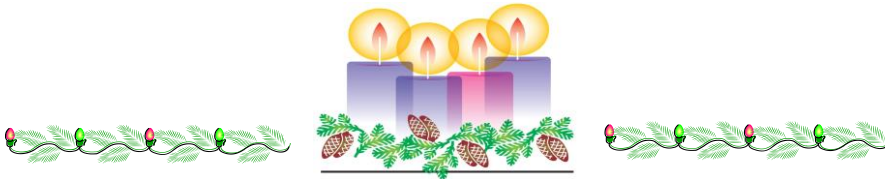
Christmas songs, activities AND  
CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING!!!!



We'll sample some then include the rest in  
Christmas Baskets delivered to area families  
in need.



For more info, please contact the Church Office or  
Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964, email @ [dellpratt@hotmail.com](mailto:dellpratt@hotmail.com)



Registration forms are at the alley entrance bulletin board and/or on the church's website. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 or the church office.

**December 1, 2024**

**Service Assistants**

**USHERS:** Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **LAY ASSISTANT:** Dave Bausinger; **COMM. ASSIST.:** Mandy Feinberg  
**ACOLYTE:** Dylan Sherman; **ALTAR GUILD:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter  
**GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS:** Jean Weaver, Paul Weaver  
**CANTOR:** Virginia Amme; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Paul Weaver

**Sunday, November 24:** Attendance: **96**; Offering: **\$3,386.71**; Capital Campaign: **\$10.00**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Nita and Eugene Hamm by their daughter and son-in-law, Debra and James Walton.

**The Basket of Flowers** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Andrea's father, William H. Dennis and David's mother, Geraldine C. Turner by David and Andrea Turner and children.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, December 1:** *Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36*

**Monday, December 2:** *Psalm 90; Numbers 17:1-11; 2 Peter 3:1-18*

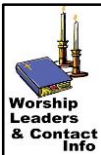
**Tuesday, December 3:** *Psalm 90; 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Revelation 22:12-16*

**Wednesday, December 4:** *Psalm 90; Isaiah 1:24-31; Luke 11:29-32*

**Thursday, December 5:** *Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:5-12; Philippians 1:12-18a*

**Friday, December 6:** *Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:13-18; Philippians 1:18b-26*

**Saturday, December 7:** *Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 9:1-6*



**Presiding over our worship this Sunday, December 1,** will be Janet Stroble, ALWL.

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

**Please contact the church office** if you or a family member are in the hospital or are ill. Pastor Jeff LeCrone is available for visits or phone calls (*see contact information above.*) The office will also contact our prayer chain leaders so that your fellow church members may pray to help you be restored to wellness. *Prayer is a powerful healer!*



Pastoral Care

*Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon*



**POINSETTIA  
ORDERS**

**NOW IS THE TIME...**to put in your reservation for memorial Poinsettias. Multiple bloom plants are being purchased, the cost per plant being **\$9.00**. Of course, many of these flowers are taken to homebound members of our congregation.

**PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BY MONDAY, December 9<sup>th</sup>.** Please call the church office with any questions. *Thank you.*

**Advent Devotionals** published by the Lutheran Hour Ministries are now available in the Narthex.

## The Library Corner



Children – **The Wonder of Christmas** – by posing open-ended questions, this book draws young readers into the events of the night Jesus was born. From the heavenly Father’s determination that the time was just right to the angel’s announcement to the shepherds, this graceful poem appeals to children’s unquenchable curiosity. Imaginatively set on the stage of a Christmas pageant, the book is in the Christmas section of the library.

Youth/Adult – **The Christmas Tree** –Christmas has always been a time of remembering old favorites – the ornaments that we unwrap with care, the carols we sing, the friends we gather around us—and, perhaps most of all, the stories, filled with magic and wonder, that have come to almost define the season itself. Narrated by the chief gardener from Rockefeller Center, it is a tale of a little girl from NYC who is orphaned and sent to live in a convent. Find out her story and the adventures she has. Book in the Christmas section.



**Soloists, instrumentalists or groups of people** interested in playing an instrument or singing on Christmas Eve please contact Jared Gist at 570-447-7335. Thank you!



**It’s time to start practicing the music for the Christmas Eve services.** If you are not in the choir but would like to sing please join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. We would love to see you!

**Traditionally** we decorate the Nave after the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, this year we will decorate on **Sunday, December 22** immediately following worship. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Decorating needs are:

- ❖ Lights on the tree in the Chancel.
- ❖ Lights and Crismons on the tree in the East Portico
- ❖ Wreaths, garland & other lights hung in the church

Poinsettias will be set out at the same time.

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



**Needed for Food Pantry:** As the holidays approach and the cold and windy weather arrives, the need for help with food increases. **Most needed item this week: pudding cups** – we are completely out of those and they are a favorite with the children. Also urgently needed: **spaghetti sauce and breakfast items (cereal, 6- or 8-pack Pop Tarts, instant oatmeal, pancake mix/syrup.)** Thank you for your generosity as you open your hearts to help feed God’s children.

**TRIVIA NIGHT (November 16) raised \$263.00 for Messiah's Backpack Program.** There were six tables of players responding to the questions posed by temporary Quizmasters Jeff and Lyn Reitz. *Note: There is a change of date for the next Trivia Night ... from February 22 to April 26 ... better weather! It also gives more time for Quizmaster George Jansson's eyesight to improve.* The beneficiary in April will be Messiah Pre-school's Scholarship Fund.



My family and I would like to thank the staff and the members of Messiah that have been there for us throughout mom's end of life, and also those who were there to help send her off. Those who came to visit, bring flowers, administer communion, Thank you. Please know that she missed coming to church, and those visits meant the world to her. Thank you! Thank you to all that supplied food and goodies for the excellent luncheon and fellowship that followed. Thank you to all that set up and cleaned up after! Peace to all! The Byham Family

## Messiah's Annual Christmas Dinner

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**Christmas is coming** and we are planning the Christmas dinner for December 15 immediately following worship. Ham dinner with all the fixings will be the menu. Along with the meal there will be entertainment by the woman's choir and a musical game. Please sign-up by Sunday, December 8. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or contact church office. Please give number of attendees.



**The Christmas Basket** recipients are now being identified. If you know someone who could benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, please contact the church office by Friday, December 6. Saturday, December 21, 9:00 am-12:00 pm the baskets will be picked up.

**How you can help** –you may contribute any of the following items: green beans, cream of mushroom soup, corn, canned pumpkin, canned sweet potatoes, turkey gravy, turkey stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, egg noodles, sugar (5 lb. bag), flour (5 lb. bag), turkey broth. Place your contributions in the blue container located in the Narthex by Friday, December 15.

**Monetary contributions** for the purchase of perishable items are also needed. Place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office by December 15. Checks should be made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church."

## ANNUAL REPORT

**The annual reports are now ready!** Like last year we will have them set out on a table for you to pick up before or after church on Sunday morning. Those not picked up will be mailed out. Included with your reports will be your estimate of giving cards and time and talent survey. Please be sure to hand those in by **Sunday, December 8.**

**All donations** to be recorded in the 2024 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.

## White Gifts? What is That?

### 10 things everyone needs to know....



**1. *When can I take an angel off the tree?***

Any time from now until December 8.

**2. *When taking an angel, what should I do?***

Sign your name, phone # and the child's ID number on the sign-up sheet.

**3. *Why is there a letter and number on the wing?***

The letter identifies the family; the number identifies the child in that family. This is why it is very important to tape the angel on your package.

**4. *Do I have to buy the color that is their favorite?***

No, this is offered as a suggestion.

**5. *Why do we only use white paper to wrap our gifts?***

The white paper is a reminder of the birth and white cloths that wrapped our Baby Jesus, God's son. Decorations and ribbon are not necessary. The gifts are placed in a large white bag for ease in moving. *"Oh, don't forget to put the angel on securely."*

**6. *What is next?***

Please bring the wrapped gift, with the angel attached, to the church. In the Chapel, the pews will have letters on them. Place your gift in the pew with the matching letter.

**7. *Other ways to help?***

Often times we need to buy gifts the last week for angels that are not taken. We can really use some shoppers and wrappers. Also December 16<sup>th</sup> we will need help getting the gifts out to the cars of the families.

**8. *You can't get out to shop? That's ok.***

Not everyone is able to get out and shop; another way to help is with a monetary donation. Just make a check out to Messiah Lutheran Church and in the memo, write "white gifts".

**9. *How many gifts does each child get?***

On the form that the parents fill out the child can receive 6 items. Please be considerate of the other children in your family when buying your gifts. Some of you are very generous when buying and some buy just what is on the list.

**10. *Important Dates!!***

- ❖ December 8<sup>th</sup> - last day to take an angel.
- ❖ December 15<sup>th</sup> – all gifts must be returned.
- ❖ December 21<sup>st</sup> – parents pick up their gifts and baskets

Sometime **BEFORE** December 21<sup>st</sup> take a moment and look in the Chapel and see the pews filled with gifts and pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the generous hearts responding to the call to reach out and serve. We are so blessed. Thank you.

More questions? Call Candy Watkins, 570-998-4037 or  
Kathy Wither 570-651-2802