

## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, December 8**

9:30 am Worship/Communion  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am **Annual Congregation Meeting**

### **Monday, December 9**

### **Tuesday, December 10**

### **Wednesday, December 11**

### **Thursday, December 12**

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

### **Friday, December 13**

5:00 pm Blessed Beginnings  
Preschool Christmas Program

### **Saturday, December 14**

9:00 am Set-Up for Christmas Dinner



**MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

### MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 4, 2024

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## Messiah's Congregation Annual Meeting

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

Immediately following worship

On the Agenda will be the

- ❖ 2025 budget
- ❖ election of 2025 Council
- ❖ election of 2025 Nominating Committee



The 2025 nominees for church council are: **Alfred Cole, Joanie Jackson, Ron Yeagle and Anita Bair** (re-election for 2<sup>nd</sup> term).

Nominees for nomination committee are: **Cindy Bennett, Gary Hutchinson, Lauren Russell and Carol Winter.**

You should have received your Annual Report Packet, included in the packet was a 2025 Budget Proposal, congregation council nominees booklet, time and talent survey and your pledge card. Please return the time and talent survey and pledge cards by December 29. Place them in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or in the church office.

All are invited and are encouraged to attend this important meeting



**December 8, 2024**

**Service Assistants**

**USHERS:** Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **LAY ASSISTANT:** Carol Waltz; **COMM. ASSIST.:** Rhonda Koch  
**ACOLYTE:** Weston Sherman; **ALTAR GUILD:** Marie Welter, April Gardner  
**GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS:** Carol Wimper, Marilyn Winter  
**CANTOR:** Bob Schweppenheiser; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Chuck Luppert

**Sunday, December 1:** Attendance: **77**; Offering: **\$7,597.19**; Capital Campaign: **\$10.00**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sam Hessert, by his wife Carol and family.

**The Bud Vase** is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Autumn Rundio's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, with love from Grammy and Pappy Bausinger.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, December 8:** *Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6*

**Monday, December 9:** *Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25*

**Tuesday, December 10:** *Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15*

**Wednesday, December 11:** *Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30*

**Thursday, December 12:** *Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-15; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15*

**Friday, December 13:** *Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15*

**Saturday, December 14:** *Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66*



**Presiding over our worship this Sunday, December 8,** will be Pastor Amme.

**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

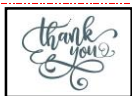
*Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon*



**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.*



Thank you to my Messiah Family for all the beautiful card you have sent to me. I love them, they make my day! Linda Smith

## The Library Corner



Children – **The Friendly Beasts**- Based on the traditional Christmas Carol, this newly adapted story is a delightfully fresh perspective to Christmas celebrations. Complete music and lyrics are included as well as an activity page of creative and fun ways to involve every member of the family. Found in the Christmas section.

Adults – **Martin Luther's Christmas Book** – This inspiring collection contains thirty excerpts from Martin Luther's Christmas sermons. In his unique and powerful voice, Luther portrays the human reality of God's birth on earth—Mary's distress at giving birth with no midwife or water, Joseph's misgivings, the Wise Men's perplexity, Herod's cunning. Luther reminds us that keeping Christmas is a year round mission of caring for those in need. Found 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.



## 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 women'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 and turkey broth.

Place your contributions in the blue container located in the Narthex by Sunday, December 15.

**White Gifts and Christmas Basket monetary donations** are due Sunday, December 15<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 21<sup>st</sup> will be the pick-up day from 9-noon.



**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, 2025. 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.

***Pledge cards and Time & Talent forms will be accepted through December 29<sup>th</sup>.***



**December 17 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. Soup, barbecue, beverages and table service will be provided.

**“Christmas at the Organ” will be presented** by the Williamsport Chapter, American Guild of Organists, Sunday, December 29 at 3:00 pm, here at Messiah.

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





## THE HEARTFELT CHRISTMAS TREE

There is a special Christmas tree  
That lives within the heart.  
It isn't pine, and can't be bought  
At any store or mart.

Each branch holds some food memory  
Of joyful Christmas cheer.  
Reminding us of those we love  
And always will hold dear.

The gifts beneath the Christmas tree  
Are stacked up very high  
With kindly deeds of thoughtfulness  
That one could never buy.

The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands  
Through every passing year  
With lovely gifts and blessings  
Having come from far and near.

Atop this tree a star shines bright,  
While angels sing God's praise:  
Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared  
And blesses ALL our days.

- Peggy Ferrell

