



## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, December 29**

9:30 am Worship/Communion  
3:00 pm Christmas at the Organ

### **Monday, December 30**

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

7:00 pm Property Committee

### **Tuesday, December 31**

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

### **Wednesday, January 1**

**New Year's Day**

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

### **Thursday, January 2**

10:00 am Knitters for Neighbors  
7:00 pm Choir  
7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, January 3**

### **Saturday, January 4**

### **Sunday, January 5**

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

### **Monday, January 6**

6:00 pm Sit Happens  
6:30 pm Fellowship Committee  
7:30 pm Worship and Music  
Committee

### **Tuesday, January 7**

7:00 pm Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, January 8**

### **Thursday, January 9**

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing  
7:00 pm Choir  
7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, January 10**

### **Saturday, January 12**

## MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060

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# MESSIAH MESSENGER

*Published weekly by*

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**December 25, 2024**

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## **A Christian Perspective on New Year's Resolutions**

*The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31.*

*The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. Non-spiritual New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.*

*Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself, what kind of resolution should he or she make?*

*Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring and/or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.*

*So, what sort of New Year's resolution should you make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalms 37:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."*



**December 29, 2024**

**Service Assistants**

**USHERS:** Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **LAY ASSISTANT:** Susan Bryan; **COMM. ASSIST.:** Sherri Holtzman  
**ACOLYTE:** Jonathan Hess; **ALTAR GUILD:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt  
**GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS:** Michael and April Gardner  
**FLOWER DELIVERY:** Marilyn Winter

**Sunday, December 22:** Attendance: **109**; Offering: **\$1,478.41**; Capital Campaign: **\$10.00**  
**Christmas Eve Services and December 29** attendance and offering will be posted in January 8 Messenger.

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones that died this past year.

**January 5, 2025**

**Service Assistants**

**USHERS:** Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee  
**LAY ASSISTANT:** Anita Bair; **COMM. ASSIST.:** Pam Eveleth  
**ACOLYTE:** Karrah Bair; **ALTAR GUILD:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter  
**GREETERS/COMMUNION PRESENTERS:** Dennis and Sue Shoemaker  
**CANTOR:** Candy Watkins; **FLOWER DELIVERY:** Jody Fullmer

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my brothers, Dave and Chuck Hallow by the Carol Armstrong family.

**The Sanctuary Lamp** is given in honor of Ethel Emenheiser's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday by her daughter and son-in-law Susan and John Bryan.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, December 29:** *1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52*

**Monday, December 30:** *Psalm 147:12-20; 2 Chronicles 1:7-13; Mark 13:32-37*

**Tuesday, December 31:** *Psalm 147:12-20; 1 Kings 3:5-14;*

**Wednesday, January 1:** *Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21*

**Thursday, January 2:** *Psalm 147:12-20; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18*

**Friday, January 3:** *Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21*

**Saturday, January 4:** *Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53*

**Sunday, January 5:** *Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18*

**Monday, January 6:** *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12*

**Tuesday, January 7:** *Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17—5:1*

**Wednesday, January 8:** *Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20*

**Thursday, January 9:** *Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

**Friday, January 10:** *Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-1*

**Saturday, January 11:** *Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16*



## The Library Corner



Children – **His Name is John!** – This book tells us the story of John, the cousin of Jesus who baptized Him in the river Jordan. Wonderful and easy book to read. This is one of our Arch Books in the Arch book spinner in our library.

Adult – **Corrie's Christmas Memories** – We all have memories of Christmas past. Corrie is an older lady who shares her memories of Dutch Christmases as a child. Sharing that Christmas Joy and gladness that will never fade. Remembering the true meaning of the holiday and that this love that God has for us is year round and eternal. Beautiful and uplifting book in our Christmas section.



**Presiding over our worship Sunday**, December 29, 2024 and January 5, 2025 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!*



**Sunday, January 5** immediately following worship we will be un-decorating the church. **Many hands make quick work. Please share your time and talents.**



*Thank you to all who contributed, donated and helped with the white gifts and Christmas baskets. We were able to provide 40 children out of 14 families with white gifts and 16 families with Christmas baskets.*

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** No Messenger will be printed/sent on Wednesday, January 1.

### **OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS**

**CLOSED** – Christmas Day – **thru** - New Year's Day, January 1, 2025

**Normal office hours** will resume – Thursday, January 2

9:00 am-3:00 pm

**Food Pantry Needs:** Jelly or marshmallow fluff; hot cocoa (a special treat on these frosty mornings!); and dessert mixes such as brownie or cake mixes; canned chicken; peanut butter; canned diced tomatoes; and canned beans - *garbanzo beans, black beans, white beans, pinto beans, kidney beans*, etc. – (NOT baked beans; we have enough of those). ***Thank you to all who have donated in recent weeks ... you've been a blessing!***