



## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, January 12**

**Baptism of our Lord**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

**Monday, January 13**

6:00 pm Sit Happens

6:30 pm Worship and Music

**Tuesday, January 14**

**Wednesday, January 15**

6:30 pm Bible Study

**Thursday, January 16**

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing

7:00 pm Choir

7:30 pm NA

**Friday, January 17**

**Saturday, January 18**



**MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## 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)

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**January 8, 2025**

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### **Gratitude for the New Year**

The new year is here, and I am sure many of you thought about or made New Year's resolutions. This is the time for not only a refresh, but it's a chance to consciously do something different in the coming year.

I came across an article online " *Why Gratitude is Important for the New Year* " author unknown while searching for something different to do for my New Year's Resolution. I needed something to focus on other than giving something up for the year. After reading this article I decided to focus on **gratitude**.

The idea of gratitude may be difficult for some of you. You might be thinking, "I just lost my dad. Why should I be grateful?" or "I lost my job" or "I was just diagnosed with cancer". What is there to look forward to? It is easy to lose hope and reflect on how difficult things are but starting the new year with a note on gratitude and a positive attitude can help you down the right path.

When you learn to appreciate what and who you're surrounded by, you'll realize just how many blessings you truly have. What's more is that it doesn't take much to take a step in the right direction. A gratitude journal is a good place to start. Studies show that people who keep gratitude journals are happier, more optimistic, and even more likely to reach their goals. Every day write down what you're grateful for and who you appreciate in your life. This internal happiness will show itself through your actions toward others.

If you make gratitude a priority, it can help keep life in perspective. Sure, some might say you're looking at life through rose-colored glasses, but you'll see the good in life if you search for it. Also remember that being thankful is a choice. Each day, do you want to focus on what you don't have, or would you rather appreciate the people in your life and the opportunities you've been given? If you dwell on what's missing, your life won't ever be enough. Choosing to appreciate even the small things will help you move toward a happy and fulfilling life.

So if you are still trying to figure out your resolution for the year, consider inserting gratitude into your life. You'll realize there's good all around you, you just have to look for it.

January 12, 2025	Service Assistants
Ushers	Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee
Lay Assistant	Janet Stroble
Communion Assistant	Mandy Feinberg
Acolyte/Crucifer	Dylan Sherman
Torchbearers	Jonathan Hess, Brennen Hess
Altar Guild	Marie Welter, April Gardner
Greeters/Presenters	Barb Waltz, Alyx Taylor
Cantor	Virginia Amme
Flower Delivery	Paul Weaver



**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.

**December 24, 2024:** Attendance: 7:00 pm -90, 11:00 pm - 74; Offering: **\$3,026.**  
**December 29, 2024:** Attendance: 69; Offering: **\$2,652.38;** Capital Campaign: **\$10**  
**January 5, 2025:** Attendance: 81; Offering: **\$9,771.40;** Capital Campaign: **\$10**

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and celebrating the Baptism of our Lord.  
**The Bud Vase** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jamie Wither on the anniversary of his birthday, January 12, by his wife and son, Kathy and Sean Wither, his daughter and son-in-law, Vanessa and Brett Hollfelder and grandchildren, Ali Rudinski, Gordie Emick, and Jackson Summers.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, January 12:** *Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*  
**Monday, January 13:** *Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17*  
**Tuesday, January 14:** *Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21*  
**Wednesday, January 15:** *Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36*  
**Thursday, January 16:** *Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24*  
**Friday, January 17:** *Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7*  
**Saturday, January 18:** *Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23*

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



**Our food pantry helped approx. 6-10 families per month in 2024.**

**Food Pantry Needs:** canned carrots, canned fruit, egg noodles and cereal.

**Eucharistic Ministers** will be sent out Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please let the office know if you are not available next Sunday. If anyone is homebound, can't get to church and would like to receive Communion please notify the church office at 570-326-9171.





Children – **Silent Night** – This is the legend that inspired the writing and singing of the Christmas carol “Silent Night”. Wonderful story with really cute illustrations. Great reading during the Christmas season but also in the mid-winter of snow and cold. Found in the Christmas section of our library.

Adult - **Grace for the Moment -inspirational thoughts for each day of the year** -This daily devotional offers a short Bible reading and meditation for each day focusing on God’s grace and love for us. How He shows His grace in our lives each and every day. Book found in the Poems, Prayers and Devotionals section.



*To My Messiah Church Family,  
I would like to thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and the cute snowman jar from the preschool. Thank you so much.  
With love, Gail O’Brien*

*Thank you to my Messiah Church Family for all the flowers, cards and well wishes and for the cards and gifts from the preschool and Kids in Mission.  
Betty Fenstermacher*



*Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talents decorating and un-decorating the church for Christmas. Many hands make quick work.*



*Thank you to everyone who remembered us during the busy Holiday Season. We really appreciated all the Christmas & New Year Greetings, cards, cookies, candy, etc. You are all very special to us.  
The Staff at Messiah*

## The Mountie Backpack Program continues into the Spring Semester to make sure



Mountie Backpack Program

**no child goes hungry.** We are in need of volunteers to take a turn to deliver the food bags on each Friday by 11 a.m. to Central Elementary School. We are now scheduling for January through May, 2025. To schedule a Friday please contact Connie McLaughlin, 570-326-3618, or Mary Schultz, 570-772-8021. We pack the food bags in Shaheen Hall on Thursday afternoons (starting between 12:30-1:00 p.m.) if you would like to come join us. *Thank you in advance.*

## CONTACT information



**If you have recently moved**, changed your phone number or updated/changed your email address, **PLEASE notify the church office with your new information.** When snail mail is returned to us we pay a small postage due fee. If we do not have a current phone or email, we have no way to contact you with important information. *Thank you.*