



Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 23
Christ the King Sunday

9:30 am Worship/Communion
10:30 am Annual Congregation
Meeting

Monday, November 24
7:30 pm Property Committee

Tuesday, November 25

Wednesday, November 26
6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, November 27

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

7:30 pm NA

Friday, November 28

Saturday, November 29



**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto
him, and bless his name.**

Psalms 100:4, KJV

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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November 19, 2025

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Messiah's Congregation Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Immediately following worship



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

On the Agenda will be the

- ❖ 2026 budget
- ❖ election of 2026 Council
- ❖ election of 2026 Nominating Committee

The 2026 nominees for church council are: **Lauren Russell, Jimmy Gardner and Rhonda Koch** (re-election for 2nd term).

Nominees for nomination committee are: **Rita Strickler, Carl Gee.**

You should have received your Annual Report Packet, included in the packet was a 2026 Budget Proposal, congregation council nominee's booklet, time and talent survey and your pledge card. ***Please return the time and talent survey and pledge cards by December 28.*** 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



Sunday, November 23, 2025

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode

Lay Assistant: Carola Storrs; **Comm. Assist.:** Sherri Holtzman

Acolyte/Crucifer: Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser

Greeters/Presenters: Dennis and Sue Shoemaker; **Cantor:** Carol Waltz

Flower Delivery: Marilyn Winter

Sunday, November 16: Attendance: **97**; Online: **6**; Offering: **\$3,085.83**

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor and loving memory of loved ones by David and Emily Bausinger.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our son, Eric Bennett, by his parents, Cindy and Denny Bennett.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, November 23: *Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43*

Monday, November 24: *Psalm 24; Jeremiah 46:18-28; Revelation 21:5-27*

Tuesday, November 25: *Psalm 24; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:8-21*

Wednesday, November 26: *Psalm 24; Isaiah 60:8-16; Luke 1:1-4*

Thursday, November 27: *Psalm 122; Daniel 9:15-19; James 4:1-10*

Friday, November 28: *Psalm 122; Genesis 6:1-10; Hebrews 11:1-7*

Saturday, November 29: *Psalm 122; Genesis 6:11-22; Matthew 24:1-22*



Presiding over our worship this Sunday, November 16, 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!*



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



This Wednesday, November 19 will be our last evening of **Bible Study and fellowship** at 6:30 pm. We will resume the class in January. *All are welcome!*



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

The Library Corner



Youth - **Caution: Dangerous Devotions - an exciting journey through the New Testament** - This book will take you where you've never gone before. Proceed, if you dare. The trip may get dangerous! You could be challenged to learn something about yourself and God's Word. Expect the unexpected. This book will make you stop and think, but beware, the trip will be fun and exciting. As you hike through the New Testament, you'll gain a whole new perspective of God's Word and how it speaks to every area in your life. You will see how God put each book in its place to give you direction for your life. This book is in the Youth themed section of our library.

Adult - **Image and Spirit - Finding meaning in Visual Art** - provides a theological and aesthetic background for a view of art as visible Word - as embodiment of the transcendent. Geared to the non-specialist, the book develops the reader's ability to interpret and appreciate artworks, of any style and from any period, from a spiritual perspective. In addition, it explores the communal aspect of art, as a prophetic Word that challenges, mobilizes and sensitizes the Christian community; and as a pastoral Word that enriches the spiritual and aesthetic journey of a community of faith. Book is in the Music section of our Library.



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!



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 8th. Please call the church office with any questions. *Thank you.*

We will decorate the church on Sunday, December 21st, 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.



White Gifts Ministry



Here's how it works: The angel tags on the trees list gift wishes/suggestions requested by each child. If you wish to purchase a gift, take a tag from the tree and purchase the gift noted on the tag. ***Wrap it in plain white paper*** and securely attach the angel tag to the gift. It is also helpful to write the number/letter code of the tag on the gift so that we can get it to the right child in the event the tag should inadvertently come off. Bring the wrapped gift in and place it in the blue bin in

the Chapel alcove. Please do *not* put gifts in the Chapel. Volunteers will sort the gifts. **All gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 14** so that we can prepare them for distribution the following Saturday.

Something a little different this year ~ A Baby Sprinkle! *So ... what is a baby sprinkle?* A “sprinkle” is like a baby shower but on a smaller scale. This year we happen to have two newborns on our list of recipients. To be more accurate, one newborn and one baby yet to be born! The parents have chosen to be surprised, so we do not yet know if the baby will be a boy or a girl. Tags for this child are on the main tree and the other was “adopted” by one of our members, but the families will need some extra supplies for the babies. Having a “sprinkle” we will enable us to collect some additional essential items for each of the infants.

Look for a mini tree with tags listing these items. The items for the sprinkle are to be brought in ***unwrapped*** and placed in the basket in the narthex. We will then divide them between the two families who need these items for their newborns.

Cash donations are cheerfully accepted! Don't like to shop, or unsure exactly what to get? We'll do the shopping for you! Monetary donations can be sealed in an envelope marked “White Gifts” and placed in the offering plate during worship, or you may send them to the church office. Checks are to be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with “White Gifts” written in the memo line. **All cash donations are needed by December 14.**

Did you know ... If you are a Thrivent member and wish to donate your **Thrivent Dollars**, they may be designated to both the White Gifts Ministry and the Christmas Food Baskets (or to either one) if you so choose.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 7: Last day to take tags from the trees
Sunday, December 14: Deadline to bring in gifts
Saturday, December 20: Gift pick-up (help may be needed to distribute gifts/food baskets)

Questions? Text/call Kathy Wither (570) 651-2802 or Jeanette Green (570) 916-7500.

Thank you so much for opening your hearts to those in need in our community!





Christmas Food Baskets: Our holiday ministry to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time is now officially under way!

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 5.*** The baskets will be ready for pick-up Saturday, December 20.

Donations of the following items are needed to fill the baskets: *canned corn; canned green beans; canned yams; cranberry sauce; canned fruit (applesauce, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail); pie crust mix; canned pumpkin; evaporated milk; canned gravy or gravy packets; stove top stuffing; dessert mixes (cake, brownies, jello, pudding, etc.); cash donations.*

Food items may be placed in the bin in the narthex on Sunday mornings or in the specially marked bin in the elevator alcove during the week.

Monetary gifts are also needed for the purchase of perishable items. Please place your gifts in an envelope marked "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate during worship or mail to the church office. Checks are to be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Christmas Baskets" written in the memo line.

All donations are due no later than Sunday, December 14.

Thank you for opening your hearts to help those in need!



Christmas is coming and we are planning the **Annual Christmas dinner** for December 7 immediately following worship. Ham dinner with all the fixings will be the menu. Along with the meal we will enjoy our games of Bingo. Please sign-up by Wednesday, December 3. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or contact church office. Please give number of attendees.



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!



Registration forms are available for the **Advent Kids in Mission event** on Saturday, December 6 at the alley entrance bulletin board and/or on the church's website. Hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 or the church office.

