



Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 7

9:30 am Worship/Communion
11:00 am Annual Christmas dinner
5:45 pm SW Little League

Monday, December 8

6:30 pm Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, December 9

Wednesday, December 10

3:00 pm Preschool Committee

Thursday, December 11

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

Friday, December 12

5:00 pm Blessed Beginnings
Preschool Christmas Program

Saturday, December 13

11:00 am WELCA Christmas Party



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Messiah's Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Immediately following worship

On the Menu:

Ham, Gravy, Mashed potatoes

Green beans, Corn

Please bring your favorite dessert, cookies, cupcakes, pies to share for dessert.

Fellowship committee will provide coffee, tea and water

Please call the church office if you have not signed up for the meal yet. *See you there!*

Dates to remember:

- **Decemeber 6th** - Advent Kids in Mission 9:00 am- Noon
- **December 7th** -
 - Annual Christmas dinner - immediately following worship
 - Last day to take tags from the tree
- **December 8th** - Poinsettia orders are due
- **December 14th** -
 - Christmas Basket items, white gifts and monetary donations are due
 - White Gifts are due (Make sure they are wrapped in white paper, and the tag is attached.)
- **December 20th** – 9:00am – noon: White Gift and Christmas baskets pick –up in Bald Eagle Alley entrance
- **December 21st** – Decorating the Church immediately after Worship
Poinsettias will be placed at this time
- **December 24th** –
 - 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service with communion
 - 11:00pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion
Music will begin a half hour before both services
- **December 28th** –
 - Lesson and Carol's Service
 - Congregation Council members will be installed

Sunday, December 7, 2025

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan; **Comm. Assist.:** Candy Watkins;
Acolyte: Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter;
Greeters/Presenters: Fred and Meg Harbaugh; **Cantor:** Bob Schweppenheiser;
Flower Delivery: Paul Weaver

Sunday, November 30: Attendance: 89; Online: 5; Offering: \$3,275.38

IN BLESSED MEMORY

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 Sam Hessert, with love Carol, Bill, Elise, Sharon and Pam.

The Bud Vase is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Autumn Rundio's 7th birthday, with love from Grammy and Pappy Bausinger.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of my father Sam Hessert, with love Pam.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, December 7: *Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12*

Monday, December 8: *Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12*

Tuesday, December 9: *Psalm 21, Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21*

Wednesday, December 10: *Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37*

Thursday, December 11: *Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10*

Friday, December 12: *Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18*

Saturday, December 13: *Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18*



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.

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



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



PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BY MONDAY, December 8th. Please call the church office with any questions. *Thank you.*



The Library Corner



It Came upon the Midnight Clear - This book is a retelling of the Christmas Story. This little book describes God's concern for the well-being of people on earth, the angel Gabriel's discussion with Mary, and the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born. Whether you read this book alone or aloud with loved ones around the Christmas tree, you will want to borrow it again next year.

Making Room for Christmas - Preparing a Place for the Christ Child - This book has 37 inspirational readings for Advent and Christmas. Borrowing the Latin American custom of Las Posada, the readings join Mary and Joseph in their search for lodging at a different home each day: a house of memories, a house of silence, a nursing home, army barracks, an intensive care unit, an airport, a five-star hotel, a birthday party, a halfway house... Included are dramatic dialogues between the Holy Family and people in these homes they approach. Brokering also asks readers, "Is there room here--in your home, in your heart-for Jesus to be born?" Great for personal reading or use as a group.



Sunday, December 21 immediately following worship we will be decorating the church. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. **Many hands make quick work. Please share your time and talents.**



The congregation council members will be installed Sunday, December 28, during worship. The members of council for 2026 are: Newly elected to council are Lauren Russell. Re-elected member is Jimmy Gardner and Rhonda Koch. Current members are Anita Bair, Alfred "Al" Cole, Jody Fullmer, Craig Kropp, Joanie Jackson, Sylvia McCarty and Ronald "Ron" Yeagle.

Music News



For all the saints who can join us in singing praise to God:

The next Saints in Song Sunday will be the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 21. The anthem is easy to learn. Rehearsal will be after Church on Sunday, December 14 and again on December 21 before worship at 8:45. If you like to sing, we hope you will join us.



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!



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!

White Gifts Ministry ~ Helpful Reminders

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 is needed that morning.)



Cash donations are cheerfully accepted!

- 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.
- **Thrivent Members:** Apply through Thrivent for a gift card through an action team and designate the gift to the White Gifts Ministry.

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



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 it 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.



Help is Needed to distribute gifts & food baskets the morning of **December 20.** Please sign up in the narthex, or text Kathy at 570-651-2802 if you can help.



THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you to the WELCA GROUP for the delicious cookies in the beautiful tin. Your Christian thoughtfulness is so appreciated.

Ethel Emenheiser



Dear Women of the ELCA,
Thank you so much for the great cookies you gave me.
They were very much appreciated.

Gail O'Brien



A special thank you to the WELCA group for the cookies and the lovely card with all the signatures. Ruth Doran does a wonderful job organizing everything for WELCA. I especially want to thank Meg Harbaugh for delivering the cookies and the nice visit.

God Bless,
Betty Fenstermacher



Thank you to WELCA for the cookies. It was so thoughtful and greatly appreciated.

Margie Huyck

