



## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, December 14**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

### **Monday, December 15**

6:30 pm Executive Committee

### **Tuesday, December 16**

### **Wednesday, December 17**

### **Thursday, December 18**

1:00 pm Backpack Packing

2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:30 pm Bell Choir

7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, December 19**

### **Saturday, December 20**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm White Gifts  
and Food Basket Pick-up



### **MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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## MESSIAH MESSENGER

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## Christmas Hymn

As we wait for the arrival of Our Savior, here is a guest post from Rev. Jon D. Vieker, one of the three general editors of the *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*, which originally appeared in the December 2019 edition of *The Lutheran Witness*.

It starts the day after Halloween and in some places, even earlier. I am talking about the Christmas songs that permeate our commercial soundscape this time of year. From shopping malls to big box stores, from smartphones to gas pumps, the signature sound of Christmas is song.

And it's no wonder. Two millennia ago, Christmas itself began with song. The angel's announcement to the shepherds was followed by the first Christmas hymn: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:14). The church hasn't stopped singing since, and even the world finds itself singing along.

The songs of Christmas are all around us. They carry God's Word into our ears, and so into our hearts. Take time this Christmas season to meditate on the words of these great "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). For therein dwells Christ, richly, for you.



**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!



**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Charles Luppert, Larry and Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assistant:** Kim Brofee; **Comm. Assist.:** Mandy Feinberg  
**Acolyte:** Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Alice Morrison, April Gardner  
**Greeters/Presenters:** April and Mike Gardner; **Cantor:** Dave Bausinger  
**Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

**Sunday, December 7: Attendance: 88; Online: 8; Offering: \$9,584.58**

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Ream by his wife Sandy, Dennis Jr., Kelley and their families.

**BIBLE READINGS**

**Sunday, December 14:** *Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

**Monday, December 15:** *Psalm 42; Isaiah 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16*

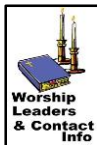
**Tuesday, December 16:** *Psalm 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 17-25*

**Wednesday, December 17:** *Psalm 42; Zechariah 8:1-17; Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34*

**Thursday, December 18:** *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Galatians 3:23-29*

**Friday, December 19:** *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22; Galatians 4:1-7*

**Saturday, December 20:** *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29; John 3:31-36*



**Presiding over our worship this Sunday, December 14, will be Pastor Ronald Montgomery.**

**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.*



**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 Lauren Russell and re-elected Jimmy Gardner and Rhonda Koch. Current members are Anita Bair, Alfred "Al" Cole, Jody Fullmer, Craig Kropp, Joanie Jackson, Sylvia McCarty, Ronald "Ron" Yeagle and Mary Schultz.



**Donna Britton's prints are once again available in the church office.** Many members inquired about her prints at the preschool Bingo event. Prints are \$25 each, and half of the proceeds from the purchase will be donated to the preschool. Come and see them. This would make a lovely Christmas gift.

## The Library Corner



**The Trees of Christmas** - is a delightful mixture of fact and folklore, the simple and the sophisticated. Each tree creates a distinctive mood and takes you on a colorful journey into the magic of the holidays.

**A Cat in the Stable** - When her beloved cat dies, Sophie asks God: "Please bring Muffin back." On Christmas morning, when she's all but given up hope, Sophie gets a surprising answer to her prayer--and a small Christmas miracle. A wonderful family book to read with beautiful illustrations.

**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. Throughout these sermon-meditations, Martin Luther reminds us that keeping Christmas is a year-round mission of caring for those in need.

## White Gifts Ministry ~ Helpful Reminders

**White Gifts Wrapping – Help Needed!** After we do the shopping for the wish items on the tags that were left on the tree, those gifts will need to be wrapped. *Anyone who is able to help with the wrapping is invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 17, at 9:30 a.m. in Shaheen Hall.*** There will be about 65-70 gifts needing wrapped. It's a joy to join together in mission, and we always have a good time chatting, too ... hope to see you there!



**Reminder:** All gifts for which tags were taken are due in the Chapel by **December 14.**



**Christmas Food Baskets 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.**



**Help is Needed** to carry gifts and food baskets to the cars as families come to pick them up on the morning of **December 20.** Distribution will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. You do not need to stay the whole time ... whatever time you can offer is appreciated. The first hour or two are usually the busiest.  
*Hope to see you there!*



*A big thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards & visits during my recent health crisis. I appreciate each and every one.*

*Blessings, Gary Hutchinson*



**There is a TIME CHANGE for the CHOIR.** The choir will now rehearse on **Thursday's at 2:00 pm.** The Bell Choir will continue their rehearsal times at 6:30.