



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Celebrating the Messiah for 25 years"

Second Sunday after Christmas

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Number 1

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Messiah's Mission Statement

"We, the members of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, desire to praise our Lord, nurture the church and reach out to the unchurched in and around the Bellevue area, so that all may believe in Christ and receive the gift of eternal life."

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: We are in the presence of God, who has created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Response: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response: (spoken)

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in Him.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his

God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he will be their peace.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” ¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Verse of the Day

**Alleluia! Alleluia ! Alleluia!
These words are words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia ! Alleluia!**

Gospel Lesson: John 7:40-43

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Christ."

Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? ⁴² Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Hymn: " *To Shepherds as They Watched by Night* " CW 53

1 To shepherds as they watched by night
Appeared a host of angels bright;
"Behold the tender babe," they said,
"In yonder lowly manger laid,

3 Oh, then rejoice that through his Son
God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
Your brother is the eternal God.

Today's message: based on Hebrews 2:10-18

"The Christmas Celebration That Never Ends"

Confession of faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with

the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer:

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ, we praise You for choosing us to inherit eternal life before You made this world. We cannot understand how this is possible, but we believe it because of the clear testimony of Your Word. You destined us to be Your children through Christ.

O Lord, we are truly thankful that you became our brother, to take away the sins of the world. You made us holy and blameless in your sight, not because of our talents or goodness, but because of Christ's perfect life and death. You are the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Move us to live our lives for You in joy. May our words and actions show the world the joy that Your gift of salvation gives to us. Use us, O Lord, to bless others with the good news of salvation.

O Lord, in this new year we thank You for so many wonderful blessings you have placed in our lives. We thank You for family and friends. We thank You for Your presence and strength to comfort us in time of need. We pray that You would also be with and bless our loved ones in the new year. Bless them as richly as You have blessed us, for we know You love them just as dearly.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the opportunity to partake in the sacrament of your Son's body and blood. You shared in our humanity that you would be our brother to take away the sins of the world. In this holy supper, give us strength to live for You. As we leave your table, enable us to serve as witnesses of your love and faithfulness. May we come to Your table fully confessing all our sins, knowing You forgive them.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

In the name of Him whose light still shines to all the world for the salvation of many, we join in praying - **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.”**

Pastor:

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Distribution:

(During the distribution, the following communion hymn will be played softly. Please read and ponder the words of the hymn as you wait to receive communion or after you have returned from the Lord's table.)

Communion Hymn:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem ” CW 65

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ
enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Ending prayer:

Pastor: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness You sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another, and serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Response: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEMORIALS GIVEN in loving memory of Roger Keen, who was called home to heaven. \$200 has been donated as a thank you to the Lord for blessing us with his presence here on earth. May God grant us an amazing reunion at the Last Day!

PRIVATE COMMUNION SCHEDULE If you're not comfortable taking communion in our service today, we are holding small (10 or less) communion groups on **Monday, January 4th**. Every half hour from 10:30 to 11:30, and then at 6:30, we'll host a short communion service. If you are interested, call the church office (465-6013) to schedule a slot for you and your family.

MUSICALLY BLESSED? We are looking for volunteers within the church who would like to share their musical talents with the congregation, whether that be vocally or instrumentally. With COVID-19 in mind, we are trying to come up with ways for everyone to contribute to fellowship and worship while remaining safe! If you are interested please contact Katie Christensen at 920-217-6762 or email at Kaitlyn.christensen95@gmail.com.

OUR SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY continues with the "Fruit of the Spirit". This class will also be live streamed at 9:00 a.m each Sunday, and if you would like the lessons emailed to you contact Pastor Sauer at pastorsauer@messiahgb.org.

DAILY BIBLE READING JOURNALS are available! Pick up your copy in the activity hall today. Contact us if you have any questions. God bless your growth in God's Word!

DAILY BIBLE READING JOURNAL GROUP As you study through God's Word, you might have questions or have a desire to interact with others. We invite you to join our online group or ask questions. Join the group at [Facebook.com/MessiahGB](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahGB) and

look for the pinned post, or send an email with your questions to - pastorschultz@messiahgb.org.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready for pickup in the activity hall. Please pick yours up today.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will start up again on January 10th. We will meet on Sundays from 9:15 to 9:45 am in the activity hall. We will split up lower grades and upper grades. Teen group (8-12th grade) will meet in the teen room. Register now at messiahgb.org/ss-registration.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Due to family circumstances and health, we are currently in need of volunteers to serve the Lord here at Messiah on our Elders committee, early service usher and communion set up teams. If interested in serving, please contact Pastor at 465-6013 or pastorsauer@messiahgb.org. Thanks!

VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED If you would like to volunteer to serve the Lord in this way, please contact one of your pastors. Training will be provided.

Our Response to God's Gifts:

Attendance this past week:

Christmas Eve - 159

Christmas Day- 74

Sunday 7:45 - 45

10:15 -43

Total: 321

Offerings \$19,428.00

Activities next week:

Monday	10:30-11:30: Private Communion sessions
	6:30: Private Communion session
	6:45: Bible information class
Wednesday	5:30: Catechism class
Thursday	6:30: Worship service
Sunday	7:45 & 10:15: Worship service
	9:00: Bible class - <i>"Fruit of the Spirit"</i>
	9:15: Family Sunday School

Serving today in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #9 Chris Dolch's team

10:15: Team #4 Rob Zeratsky's team

Cleaning: Micoliczyk, P. Mleziva, W. Mleziva, H. Woyak

Serving next week in the Lord's house:

Usher team: 7:45: Team #1 Gary DeKeyser's team

10:15: Team #6 Greg Dessart Ken Rosenthal's team

Cleaning: M. Nelsen, J. Neal, N. Nelson, S. Paider