



# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"Celebrating the Messiah for 25 years"*

## First Sunday After Christmas

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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."

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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, in mercy You sent your one and only Son to take upon Himself our human nature. By His gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of His glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 45:20-25

<sup>20</sup> “Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. <sup>21</sup> Declare what is to be, present

it— let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. <sup>22</sup> “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. <sup>24</sup> They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.’” All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. <sup>25</sup> But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel will be found righteous and will exult.

**Second Lesson:** Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Verse of the Day**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 2:25-40

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

**Hymn:** "Let All Together Praise Our God" CW 41

1. Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son,  
And gives us his own Son.
  
6. For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

**Today's message:** based on Colossians 3:12-17

**"The Peace of Christmas"**

**Confession of faith:** Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer:

We raise our voices in praise to You, O Lord, for giving us the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank You for keeping the promise first given to Adam and Eve. For rescuing us from sin by the work of the Babe of Bethlehem, we honor and glorify Your name.

O Lord, Keep the joy of this event always burning brightly in our hearts. May we continue to spread the news of Your great gift of forgiveness to others. Make it the top priority in our conversations with others. Help us to speak more about the Savior than the earthly gifts we may have received this season. May we treasure the news of our salvation more than anything else. Use us to bring the news of Christ to others.

O Holy Spirit, in all our actions and words, help us to glorify the name of the Lord. May our words be gentle and loving and may our actions fill others up. May we be loving and forgiving, living our new identity in You. Help us, in all we do, to love others as Christ loves us.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions.  
*(Silent prayer)*

We thank You for bringing us through the past year and we ask Your blessings as You guide us in the new year. In Jesus' name we join in the prayer He taught us - **“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.”**

## Ending prayer:

Pastor: O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us strong in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us Your saving peace, 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:

**IN THANKS** to our Lord for the blessings of 63 years of marriage, Jim and Sandy Hoffmann have given \$50 to Messiah's youth group program. Thank you for your offering for the Lord's work, and may He bless you with more years together!

**OUR SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** continues next Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am. Come join us in person or online as we continue to study *“Fruit of the Spirit”*. If you would like copies of the lessons emailed to you, please email to [pastorsauer@messiahgb.org](mailto:pastorsauer@messiahgb.org).

**DAILY BIBLE READING JOURNALS** are available now in the activity hall. This is a 3-year Bible reading plan. God bless your growth in God's Word! Alternate Bible reading programs are available on request. Just ask a pastor!

**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 and look for the pinned post, or send an email with your questions to - [pastorschultz@messiahgb.org](mailto:pastorschultz@messiahgb.org).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will start up again on January 10<sup>th</sup>. 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/SundaySchool](http://messiahgb.org/SundaySchool).

**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. If you are interested please contact Katie Christensen at 920-217-6762 or email at [Kaitlyn.christensen95@gmail.com](mailto:Kaitlyn.christensen95@gmail.com).

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available in the activity hall. If you have any questions regarding electronic giving, please contact Nick DeKeyser at 595-0584.

**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 you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor at 465-6013 or [pastorsauer@messiahgb.org](mailto: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.

**Activities next week:**

Thursday	6:30:	<b><i>New Year's Eve</i></b> worship w/ Communion
Sunday	7:45 & 10:15:	Worship service w/Communion
	9:00:	Bible class - " <i>Fruit of the Spirit</i> "

**Our Response to God's Gifts:**

Attendance this past week:

Thursday	6:30 - 20	
Sunday	7:45 - 57	
	9:30 - 76	Total: 153

Offerings \$8,770.62

***Serving today in the Lord's house:***

Usher team: 7:45: Team #Dave Maccoux's team  
10:15: Team #10 Ken Rosenthal's team

Cleaning: D. Wiltzius, K. Wolter, Racine, Reckleberg, M. Rose

***Serving next week in the Lord's house:***

Usher team: 7:45: Team # 9 Chris Dolch's team  
10:15: Team # 2 Doug Voigt's team

Cleaning: Rowell, S. Schneider, K. Schumann, M. Simonis, Skubal