

DECEMBER 2020

# Messiah Lutheran Church



## MESSAGE from Pastor:

### **Messiah Lutheran Church** ***Christ Centered, Family Strong, Mission Minded***

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Advent is the special time of year when we get to take part of the Biblical narrative, as we make preparations to celebrate the birth of our Lord. We fill our time decorating our homes with symbols of our Christian faith, to welcome the Savior. We go about buying gifts, to remember the gifts the wise men brought before the coming Messiah. We gather with our loved ones and worship the coming Immanuel to remember how the shepherds came. Advent holds such wonderful memories of Christmas past and the excitement about celebrating Christmas present. It is a wonderful time of the year to look to Jesus as he did not come to us only at the incarnation but look to Jesus who is continually coming to us speaking to us in His Word and as He is continually coming to us in His Body and Blood that He would have an intimate relationship with us. What a thing to celebrate, that not only has God in the flesh come to us to redeem us, all of our sins, upon the cross but also that He would never leave nor forsake us! But that is not all, Jesus promises us, that He would be with us to the end of the age. That means that we still have much to look forward to! We look forward to the coming end of the age! When we shall see Jesus face to face once again. Advent is the most wonderful time of the year! It is the time that we excitedly remember what Jesus has done for us, we exuberantly receive the gifts of Jesus and we are expectedly looking forward to seeing Jesus again!

*The Lord's blessings in Christ as you make your Advent preparations to celebrate our coming King.*

*Pastor Mallardi*

## *EDUCATION AND YOUTH*

### **LEAF RAKING MARATHON-**

Thanks to all the parents who helped drive and chaperone, and for all of our Middle and High School Youth who helped rake 3 yards... plus one impromptu yard! God gave us some awesome weather and we are so thankful for the opportunity to serve our local community!

### **KANSAS DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING-**

The Messiah High School Youth gathered here at Messiah for a “virtual” online gathering with Rev. Scott Giger who talked about how we can have a more “Clear Vision” of who we are when we keep our focus on Jesus. The band Bread of Stone kept us moving and singing. Kudos to Alicia Feyerherm who made an online appearance in the video presentation for Lutheran Youth Fellowship (She is a Kansas District LYF Youth Rep). Plus we made some SWEET tie dye t-shirts during one of our activity times.

### **YOUTH CAROLING & FUN NIGHT**

Save the date for **Friday, December 18th (5:30pm)** as we are tentatively planning to do some caroling, but with Covid-19 may have to get creative! We will aim to take the Youth and their families to a few local neighborhood homes for caroling and then back to church for snacks and games! Messiah members are welcome to join in on the caroling!

### **YOUTH PARENT MEETING**

We will have our January meeting on **Wednesday, January 6th at 7:30pm**. This meeting is just for the **parents** who have kids in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Your attendance is important so you don't miss out on topics and specific youth event details. Please plan to attend and bring your family calendars.

### **LESSON IN A BAG- Leader needed**

On **Sunday, December 27th and January 3rd** we are looking for 1-2 people to lead the “Lesson in a Bag” for those weekends due to the Christmas break. Please talk to DCE Ben or Rhiannon if you can help.

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. There will be one service that day at **9:30am** as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! **Children and Teachers** are asked to **arrive at 9:00am** that day to line up and get costumes on.

\* Children will practice music and parts **during the Sunday school hour (Dec. 6th & 13th)**

\* **Dress Rehearsal** will be on **Wednesday, December 16th during midweek**, we need teachers, and **CHILDREN** (Pre-K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade) who will be at the program to attend these practice times!

### **UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

Here is a quick glance at the Sunday school schedule for the next month.

#### DECEMBER:

**6<sup>th</sup> - Practice for Christmas Program (K-8<sup>th</sup> grades) (Little kids regular class)**

**13<sup>th</sup> - Practice for Christmas Program (K-8<sup>th</sup> grades) (Little kids regular class)**

**\*\* WED- 16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (6:15-7:30pm)- (PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grades)**

**20<sup>th</sup> - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (9:30 Service)** with 9:00am arrival for teachers & children

**27<sup>th</sup> - Lesson in a Bag: (Christmas Break)**

#### JANUARY:

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Lesson in a Bag: (Christmas Break)**

**\*\* WED- 6<sup>th</sup> - Resume regular Midweek classes**

**10<sup>th</sup> - Resume regular Sunday School classes**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL & MIDWEEK VIDEO LESSONS**

Every week, DCE Ben is posting up on our YouTube channel a video lesson that covers the lesson topic for each Sunday and Wednesday. If we miss you IN PERSON, you can still do some Bible Study time with your family. If you have any feedback on these lessons, please let DCE Ben know! It takes a fair amount of time to put these together, and we want to make sure these lessons are helpful for Messiah families. ***Adult members of our congregation are welcome to watch and enjoy these lessons too!*** Simply go to YouTube online and search for “Messiah Lutheran Hays”.

## MIDWEEK NOTES & ADVENT NIGHT

• **MIDWEEK MEMORY WORK:** A reminder that if your child(ren) does memory work and need to have it reviewed, we have TWO ways to do it if you are NOT joining us IN PERSON:

- 1) Set up a time with DCE Ben to review... send him a text or email to schedule a time.
- 2) Drive thru Memory Work... from 6 to 6:15pm, pull up to the overhang in the Big Parking lot and send a text to Rhiannon or DCE Ben.

**ZOOM SESSIONS:** We are currently offering Midweek via Zoom for those who may be at home due to sickness, quarantine, or travel. If you need Zoom log-in details, please contact DCE Ben and he'll get you plugged in.

**Midweek starts at 6:15 and concludes at 7:30pm.** We will aim to have Zoom students follow a couple of the classes, both in the courtyard lessons and also the classroom settings. There is a passcode, so please take note of that if you need to enter it. We will use the same Zoom link and passcode each week. **If we don't see anyone joining us by 6:45pm, we will end the zoom session early.**

- **ADVENT NIGHT has been cancelled, so we will have normal midweek on Wed., December 2nd.** Families are encouraged to participate in our regular **Advent services at 7:30pm** following our Midweek sessions. Advent services are scheduled for: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.

We are continuing to monitor any changes brought on by COVID-19. We appreciate your patience as we make necessary changes with hopes to resume "normal" midweek activities in the future. If you have questions, please contact DCE Ben.

### Rooted in Christ

Do you know Jesus? Is he a part of your everyday life? It can be difficult to look at our lives and realize we are not as connected to Jesus as we want to be. However, when we DO make efforts to incorporate God's Word into our life, it changes the lens by which we view the world. Paul writes to the Colossians a word of encouragement and a caution. **Colossians 2:6-8** says:

**"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."**

We live in a remarkable time and are blessed to have the modern comforts we enjoy daily. I recently heard a podcast talking about fallen civilizations. They focused on the people of Sumer (southern Mesopotamia or southern Iraq). This region is considered one of the birthplaces of modern civilization. These people existed (6,500 BC) and built an incredible community, yet their nation rose and fell, in part because of water. They had cultivated crops using water that had salt in it, which over time ruined their food source in the desert. Now the ruins of these megacities lay abandoned in the desert.

My question is... where did they come from? Scripture talks about the world forming post-flood (**Genesis 10-11**). These people from Noah, set out and multiply, formed nations, and as humans do... fell away from God. Yet, we see Abraham comes from this region of Sumer (Ur) and is called to Canaan (or Israel today) (**Gen. 12**). We trace the lineage from Abraham to the birth of Jesus. A child born to a virgin, in the tiny town of Bethlehem, who lives a quiet life up to age 30. Jesus begins a 3 year ministry, teaching his disciples, performs miracles, dies, is buried and is resurrected. He sends out his 12 apostles to tell others about this middle eastern man who boldly claims to be the Savior of the world.

We are the end result of that ministry... some Lutheran Christians living in a small town in western Kansas. We are part of a story that is WAY bigger than us. God has moved thru history, constantly at work to care for his chosen people and to continue his message of love, forgiveness, grace, and salvation. Just like people of old, nations will rise, cities will fall, people will live their life, but if we allow this big world to separate us from Christ, then we too will fall and be lost to the sands of history. However, like the birth of Jesus, a new thing has happened... thru the pure water of baptism we are called into an eternal family and held securely in the hands of the God of all creation. How precious we are to Him. Faith is a miracle He works in us, may we stay grounded in that faith... today and always. Thankful for the Word of God & His Love ~ DCE Ben

### ***Special Thank You.....***

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church Congregation,

Janine and I would like to extend to everyone a heartfelt thank you for your Pastor Appreciation Month Gift! We are humbled by your lavish generosity.

It is our honor to serve the Lord alongside and amongst all of you..

Thank You very much, *Pastor and Janine*

### **ADVENT JESSE TREE KITS—Available for Youth—8th Grade and Under Only**

These Kits will be available here at the church Sunday November 29th.

If you are not able to pick them up on Sunday—you can get them on Wednesday Dec 2, at Midweek, OR Contact DCE Ben about picking them up.



THANK YOU high school youth group for packing our college goody boxes! It is so wonderful to be able to encourage our college students to remember that GOD IS WITH THEM during their finals!!



### **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**

LWML will not be hosting our normal, annual wonderful Christmas Brunch. We will instead be hosting a smaller, Christmas LWML meeting Monday night, Dec. 14 at 6:30. We will be singing Christmas songs, having a white elephant gift exchange and of course enjoying time in God's Word.

Please join us in the courtyard.!

\*\*\*\*\*



### **Messiah's LWML Adopts a Seminary Student!**

Paul Hammes did a wonderful job of being a camp counselor at Camp LVR this past summer in Colorado. Paul is also attending the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, studying to be a pastor! Our LWML is excited to be sponsoring him as he studies to serve our Lord.



## Operation Christmas Child

We had a lot of exciting things happen in November for Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

Midweek and Church Wide Shoebox Packing parties where we packed **768** shoeboxes.

A Prayer Walk around the church in preparation for National Collection Week.

There were **22** volunteers who worked **126** hours receiving, packing, loading and transporting shoeboxes.

A Prayer over the shoeboxes and truck as we transported them to Oakley.

Messiah Lutheran Church received a total of **2,129** boxes.

There was an actual total of **2,527** Collected shoeboxes here in Hays, these boxes will now allow for **2,527 Gospel Opportunities for children around the world!**

While the work at Messiah for Operation Christmas Child is wrapping up the journey of the shoeboxes will continue into December and all year long.

Please remember OCC shoeboxes, volunteers, those who are transporting them and the children who will receive them in your prayers.

If you ran out of time and still want to pack a shoebox you can build a box online at:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

Consider volunteering Year Round for OCC on the Northwest Kansas Area Team, use your God given gifts to further the proclamation of the Gospel in more than 150 countries around the world. If you would like more information, please speak to Rachel Albin, NW KS Area Coordinator about the opportunity.

*I want to thank everyone who volunteered, prayed, packed a shoebox, donated supplies and shipping costs and just offered words of encouragement over the last month. Without you and the support of the Messiah Lutheran Congregation and of course God, this would not be possible.*

*From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU and may God Bless You.*

*Stacey Stults—OCC Relay Center Coordinator*

Stacey Stults OCC Drop Off Team Leader

(785) 650-3293 [stacey\\_stults@yahoo.com](mailto:stacey_stults@yahoo.com)



## MOPS Talk

**MOPs** had a wonderful meeting this past month with 2 speakers to discuss growing up black in America with us. One was one of our MOPs moms Alicia Kumer and the other was the husband of a MOPs Mom, James Carter. We had great discussion and ideas about how to talk about such matters with the kids, but ultimately we are all a part of the human race, created and loved by God.

Our online Bible Study, Altogether Beautiful, met for the second time this month too. This time we were able to dig deeper and have better discussions on what it means to be called beautiful by God, who was Solomon and the woman anyway and also that God really does love us and died for us despite our imperfections. We are looking forward to continuing the discussion in December, a discussion that will be centered on our weaknesses and Christ's strength.

We are hoping we get to still meet in person next months and do an ornament gift exchange. Regardless how we end up meeting, we will still do our usual Christmas programming, which involves a special time of discussing our highs and lows of the last year.

MOPs would still benefit from having a mentor Mom, so if any of you Moms who have gone through raising littles would like to join us, please contact Michelle Venteicher.

*Thank you for your support and God's Blessings on your holidays!*



*Kindergarten and 1st grade class learning patience, forgiveness, kindness, helpful and loving so they can get into Heaven.*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Dawn Marlett	12-2		
Crystal Lonsdale	12-4	Carly Davis	12-22
Jamie Engel	12-5	Warren Kohtz	12-22
Tammy Schoenthaler	12-7	Ian Harvey	12-23
Tina Simpson	12-13	Marie Wegele	12-23
Kelbi Harvey	12-14	Sue Staab	12-25
Chris Albin	12-17	Jacob Reille	12-26
Robert Schlegel	12-19	Bill Waller	12-27
Myron Stenzel	12-19	Jesse Wilkie	12-28
Dale Haselhorst	12-20		
Sandi Maier	12-20		

*Many Blessings on your Special Day!*

## **Happy Anniversary!**

<b>Randy &amp; Tammy Schoenthaler</b>	<b>12-17</b>
<b>Jerry &amp; Susan Green</b>	<b>12-21</b>
<b>Charles &amp; Louise Reese</b>	<b>12-22</b>
<b>Gary &amp; Ila Hulett</b>	<b>12-29</b>

## NEWS FROM EVANGELISM:

Evangelism committee continues to meet by Zoom. The virus has made it necessary to make alternative plans for some of our events. The pie auction is on hold until later. The annual Advent Celebration with a meal and program will not be held this year. The work-retreat trip to Colorado for families is still possible, and if your family is interested please contact Pastor.

There is a need for door greeters. Please give Sharon a call at 785-628-6657 and volunteer. We would also welcome volunteers to our committee. Activities will resume and your help would be appreciated. We have a good time working together as we plan and carry out ways to offer God's love to our community and world.

There is so much beauty and rich tradition during the season of Advent to prepare Christians for the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem. When you see the altar draped in purple, remember your King who came to bring you life and salvation. If you don't have one already, consider getting an Advent wreath for your home as you prepare for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Give thanks to God for the confession of faith He gave to His people to shine His light in dark places. Learn about the tradition of reciting the O Antiphons (found in Lutheran Service Book along with hymn # 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) and incorporate it into your Advent devotions.

*Finally, anticipate with joy the coming of our Lord!*



### NOBLEMEN of Messiah

Noblemen will not meet again now until sometime after the first of next year.

**DRIVE THRU COMMUNION is only Held on the FIRST SUNDAY**  
**of each month, at 10:00am—**

**This Drive Thru is held, in addition to our regular communion during our normal church services each week!**

For The **DRIVE THRU COMMUNION—PLEASE** use **ONLY** The **20th Street side** of the church.

***We ask that those coming to regular services on the First Sunday of each month to PLEASE Park in the North Parking Lot ONLY. So that the South Side (20th Street) can be used for the drive thru communion.***

Traffic cones will be in place on the 20th Street Side, to secure the space we need to do this. Please enter on the East side of 20th and exit onto the Main Street side of 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Regular Communion will continue to be held also, as normal, every Sunday during services.**

**THANK YOU!**

# DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <b>Ladies Bible</b> <b>Study 8:30AM</b> <b>Courtyard</b> <b>Parish Life</b> <b>MTG-</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>2</b> <b>MidWeek</b> <b>6:15 pm to</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Advent Serice</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Ladies Evening</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>8:30 pm</b> <b>By ZOOM</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship Service 8:30am Edu. Hour 9:45 Morning Song 11:00am <b>DRIVE THRU</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>@ 10:00am</b>	<b>7</b> <b>LWML</b> <b>Meeting @</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Courtyard</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Ladies Bible</b> <b>Study 8:30AM</b> <b>Courtyard</b> <b>BOD Mtg.</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>9</b> <b>MidWeek</b> <b>6:15 pm to</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>NBM -7:45pm</b> <b>Advent Service</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Ladies Evening</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>8:30 pm</b> <b>By ZOOM</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>MOPS</b> <b>9:00am--Noon</b>
<b>13</b> Worship Service 8:30am Edu. Hour 9:45 Morning Song 11:00am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>LBS 8:30AM</b> <b>Courtyard</b> <b>Evangelism</b> <b>Mtg</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>16</b> <b>MidWeek</b> <b>6:15 pm to</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Advent Service</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Ladies Evening</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>8:30 pm</b> <b>By ZOOM</b>	<b>18</b> <b>YOUTH -</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Caroling</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>CHILDRENS'</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>PROGRAM ONLY</b> <b>9:30am</b> <b>No other Services</b> <b>today.</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>LBS 8:30AM</b> <b>Courtyard</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>EVE</b> <b>Service 7:30pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Wishing</b> <b>you ALL a</b> <b>Very</b> <b>Merry</b> <b>Christmas</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship Service 8:30am Edu. Hour 9:45 Morning Song 11:00am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>LBS 8:30AM</b> <b>Courtyard</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



# DECEMBER 2020

Date	Parish Life	Altar Guild	Ushers	Organist	Acolyte	Greeters
12-6 Sun.	L1: Curtis Deines A1: L2: Sherry Dryden	Shirley Thomason Mia Knoll Janet Ottaway	Gary Wegele Cliff Ottaway Kevin Sauer	<i>First Service:</i> Curtis Sander  <i>Morning Song:</i> Gloria Blackwell	<i>First Service:</i> Brody Harmony  <i>Morning Song:</i> Caleb Mallardi	David & Marge Kertz  Swede & Jenni Holmgren
12-13 Sun.	L1: Jana Horsfall A1: Rachel Albin L2: Warren Kohtz	Shirley Thomason Mia Knoll Janet Ottaway	Gary Wegele Cliff Ottaway Kevin Sauer	<i>First Service:</i> Sylvia Bixenman  <i>Morning Song:</i> Gloria Blackwell	<i>First Service:</i> Aiden Hardman  <i>Morning Song:</i> Madison Polson	David & Marge Kertz  Swede & Jenni Holmgren
12-20 Sun.	CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGAM ONLY..  NO SERVICES					
12-27 Sun.	L1: Rachel Albin A1: Steve Stults L2: Curtis Deines	Shirley Thomason Mia Knoll Janet Ottaway	Gary Wegele Cliff Ottaway Kevin Sauer	<i>First Service:</i> Marge Kertz  <i>Morning Song:</i> Gloria Blackwell	<i>First Service:</i> Trevor Stults  <i>Morning Song:</i> Keaton Brown	David & Marge Kertz  Swede & Jenni Holmgren



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Return Service Requested

***DECEMBER 2020***

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**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

***You are required to wear a Mask anywhere inside the church building– Unless Otherwise Noted—We will inform you if it changes! Thank You for helping to make a difference, and keeping yourself and others Healthy!***