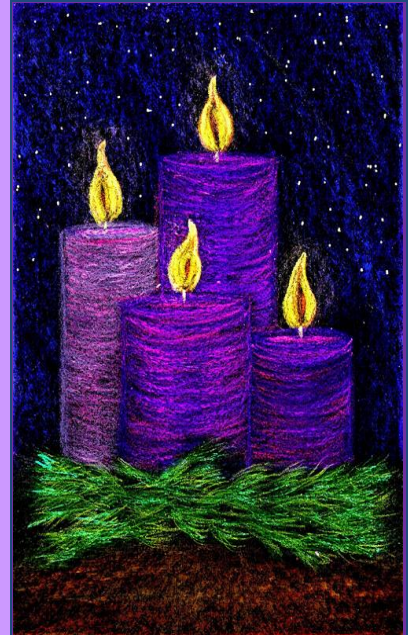


The Messiah MESSENGER

December 2018 - Issue #606

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for next month's *Messenger* articles is December 20.

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*Oh Come,
Oh Come
Emanuel*

Preparation

Advent is a season of waiting. It is a season of hope. Amid the demands of this busy season, we wait and hope for so much more than gifts under the tree.

We look forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and to his coming again in glory. During Advent, as we seek assurance of God's continued presence in our lives, we are reminded of the words of Psalm 46:10,

"Be still, and know that I am God!"

The four candles of the Advent wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. The outer candles represent the period of waiting for the birth of Christ. The weekly progression of the lighting of the candles symbolizes our preparation, prayer, reflection and our Hope and Expectation of Jesus' birth. In the center sits a white candle that represents Christ. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the Light of Christ into the world.

Each of the four candles has a meaning that we remember as we light them each Sunday:

1st Week of Advent = **HOPE**

Without hope, we have no direction, no purpose. As we begin the season of Advent, we wait in hopeful anticipation of the newness God has brought and is bringing to this world. We seek to live as a people of hope, with our hearts set on the life to come, and our eyes set on the work we're called to do in the meantime.



2nd Week of Advent = **PEACE**

Without peace, we have no solace, no fulfillment. As we continue the season of Advent, we wait in hopeful anticipation of the peace the Christ-child will bring to a weary world. We seek to live as a people of peace, working toward a world free of violence and vengeance, where all can live free of abuse and fear.

3rd Week of Advent = **JOY**

Without joy, we have no fulfillment to our lives. As we continue the season of Advent, we wait in joyful anticipation of the happiness the Christ-child will bring to a world that needs it so desperately. We seek to live as a people of joy that share it with everyone we encounter, to bless others with the happiness we have in Jesus Christ.

4th Week of Advent = **LOVE**

Without love, we have nothing; wandering aimlessly in a world without hope. As the season of Advent comes to a close, we wait for love by practicing it, by embodying the truth we trust in God-with-us. We seek to live as people of love, reciprocating that which has first been shown to us.

Christmas = The **CHRIST** Candle

Christ is the Light of the World the light that shines in the darkness, the light that can never be overcome by the powers of this world. Christ is the Light of God that has come to us in Christ Jesus.

(excerpted from an article on Living Lutheran):

Deeper understandings: Christmas—God “deep in the flesh”

By [Shauna Hannan](#) December 20, 2016

Christianity is the religion of the incarnation. Christians’ core belief is that God entered the human world of bodies and senses in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, whose historical life is normative in its claim about the nature of God and possibilities for human existence (Margaret Miles, ; Wiley-Blackwell, 2004).

It matters for our theology, yes, but also for our faith and for our lives that we have an incarnate God, an enfleshed God, who became human—not just a human, in general, but a human with particularities that make a difference. The Word was made flesh in what some have called “dubious circumstances” and what another, a hymn writer, has called a “mean estate” (you’ll likely be singing the latter this Christmas season). It’s important and helpful to name a few of the particularities:

- Our God had an unwed mom.
- Our God was born “without the agency of a man.”
- Our God had a human dad who had to be convinced to adopt one that was not his own.
- Our God was a homeless refugee born in a makeshift delivery room.

We name the fleshy particulars to help us avoid the temptation to prioritize the “soul” as our true selves.

God is the prototype for our life together, which makes the body central.

- We believe the Word became flesh.
- We believe God was “nursed or suckled, lay in the crib, felt cold, walked, stood, fell, wandered, ate, drank, suffered, died.”
- We believe we are made in the image of an incarnate—an enfleshed—God.
- We believe in the resurrection of the body.

The incarnation is as edgy and scandalous as the crucifixion and resurrection. The incarnation is as edgy and scandalous today as it has been for 2,000 years. To counter our tendency to render Emanuel’s body-ness a taboo subject around the dinner table, we boldly declare in our weekly meal: “The body of Christ given for you.” God with you. Emmanuel. God for you. Jesus.

Ultimately, the Word becoming flesh is not just table talk—it’s a way of being. God’s willingness to “empty himself by being born in human likeness” by “being found in human form” (Philippians 2) changes how we encounter and interact with other bodies. We are changed by one whose ministry focused on the care of actual bodies, as Jesus proclaimed release to captives, gave sight to the blind and let the oppressed go free (Luke 4).

As people of the incarnation, we take our lead from God as we embrace the fleshiness of the world and of our own experiences. We are freed for being grateful for our bodies. We are freed from denying our body’s aches and pains. We are freed from having to prioritize one type of body over another. We are freed for being the body of Christ.



MESSIAH MINISTRIES

ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and are ready for Advent. This past Monday we served our guests a Thanksgiving lunch. Again, we are reminded that we are richly blessed, being able to share what we have with those in need. Our guests again asked us to say thanks to our congregation for being so generous. They also continue to ask about Pastor Lynne and pray for her.

As we know, the holidays can be difficult for those who have little and are faced with struggles every day. Thankfully we can provide a safe, warm and nourishing place for them once a week.

We are still waiting to hear if our request for grant monies from the ELCA World Hunger has been approved. This past month we had several new guests who had heard about our Ministry and came for lunch, felt comfortable and returned the next week. We exhausted our Jewel cards mid-month and then received two generous donations so we were able to provide cards for all of our guests! We feel very blessed.

Thank you again for your prayers, donations, and support of this outreach. We also had a visitor to church one Sunday this month who came to pray and also asked for some assistance. A number of Messiah members came to his aid and got together to see how we all could help. What a wonderful feeling to be part of such a caring congregation!

With thanks, Connie Kaufman (on behalf of the Assistance Ministry team)



QUILTS & KITS

As 2018 winds down we again want to thank everyone for their help during the year to support Messiah's Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits Ministry. As we hear in the news every day there continue to be catastrophes around the world that leave people in desperate need and without hope.



"Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits of Care give families around the world some of life's essentials, as well as a reminder that they are not alone. From chronic poverty and conflict to drought and typhoon, the intensity of humanitarian needs continues to increase. Your quilts and kits are urgently needed! Anyone can work on a quilt or kit project. It strengthens fellowship within your congregation, serves as a faith witness to your community and brings you closer to your global neighbors. The gifts you give through these projects are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world." (from Lutheran World Relief Website)

Our last quilting session of the year will be Sunday, December 16th following worship in the Friendship Place. As we prepare for next year, we are hoping for some monetary donations to get us started with quilt supplies. A roll of batting alone costs approximately \$112. Then of course there are other supplies. So far we have been fortunate that our quilt backs and quilt materials have been donated. You'll find a stocking on the "Warming Tree" in the Friendship Place for donations – or they can be placed in the offering plate and designated for Q&K or given to the office. This is one way we can all "Share the Warmth of Jesus" this year. And in January we start looking for white sales for bath towels! ☺

Trudi Handzel & Carol Hrodey



OUR MISSIONARY: REV. DR. PHILIP KNUTSON

Be sure to check out Reverend Knutson's blog page:
southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com

We look forward Reverend Knutson leading us in worship on Sunday,
December 9th! Please join us for worship and welcome Reverend Knutson!

Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Due to scheduling difficulties of time and leaders, Sunday School is currently not in session. We'd certainly like to have SS going again so if you would like to help with Sunday School, please consider donating your time. Perhaps a team approach? And it doesn't need to be a parent of a SS student! There have been many wonderful SS teachers through the years at Messiah whose children have grown but find joy in teaching children about how much God loves them! Any ideas are welcome!

If you are willing to help please contact Aly Allemeier at alybyrd1976@gmail.com.

CONFIRMATION

The confirmands meet with Pat Kovach at 9 a.m. Sundays in the Confirmation Room, off the choir loft! Miss Pat always welcomes others to teach and help with the class. This month the topic is **FAITH!** Coming up will be the SOUPER BOWL of CARING!



CHAT ROOM

Join us for Coffee & Conversation during Chat Room on Sundays at 9 in the Friendship Place. If you have requests/ideas for future topics, contact David Swanson.

MESSIAH CHILD CARE CENTER

There are a lot of fun activities coming up in the Child Care Center – besides the daily classroom activities! Here are some important dates to remember:

- MONDAY, 12/3 MANNA ORDERS DUE
- WEDNESDAY, 12/5 GINGERBREAD PARTY 6:00
- MONDAY 12/10 THRU WEDNESDAY, 12/12 11:15 MISS PAT'S CHRISTMAS DANCE PROGRAM
- MONDAY, 12/17 MANNA ORDERS DUE (LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS!)
- TUESDAY 12/18 THRU THURSDAY 12/20 4:15 CLASS CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS
- HOLIDAY CLOSURES AND PER DIEM OPTIONS – SEE CCC NEWSLETTER OR CHECK WITH THE OFFICE



For more information on CCC Activities and Programs contact CCC Office at 847-825-3767 or see the website at www.messiahchildcare.com

MESSIAH MINISTRIES

GIVING

So we all know this time of year is a time of giving – certainly gifts to friends and families. And perhaps gifts to charities such as the Giving Trees we have in the Narthex and Friendship Place or others beyond Messiah. And actually, we're asked to give all year long. There are frequently special requests for various ministries within our own church as well as outside of our church. And this church is definitely a giving church!! Imagine that our small group of Crop Walk walkers frequently raises the most money out of all the other larger churches in our area! And think about the increasing number of quilts and kits we send out every year! And think about the number of visitors that come to see us every Monday to get a warm meal, some clothing, help with resources or just a friendly face that lets them know someone cares! And just walk through the Education Wing weekdays and see the beautiful faces of all the children learning about Jesus in our Child Care Center! And did you see the pile of cleaning supplies collected for the previously homeless Veterans this year? And the list goes on. Although we don't necessarily see large numbers of people in the pews on Sundays, Messiah is truly a vital and active church. It is indeed a small, but a mighty GIVING church!

Now, here's the catch. In order to keep supporting these ministries and "With Christ, Reaching Out and Welcoming All God's Children" – Messiah needs some help too. We all know that it costs money to keep this building going and to pay our amazing staff. We were blessed with an endowment fund several years ago, but it won't last forever – and since our annual giving has seen a decrease – there is concern about continuing to support the outreach we currently do for years to come.

So, how can we all help support our church? Here are some ideas:

- **Offerings** – of course the obvious answer is each of us increasing our annual giving to the church. Maybe one less pizza a month could add up to a couple hundred dollars more a year? If we all think through our spending habits – maybe there's a few more dollars we can find. Of course, many of us have very tight budgets ourselves. So maybe there are some other ways to help.
- **"Pain-free Giving"** – we run the information about **Amazon Smile** every week/month. If you order with Amazon – go to Amazon Smile instead and designate Messiah Lutheran Church Park Ridge as your organization. Especially this month if you use Amazon for gifts – use Amazon Smile – it's no additional cost to you but Messiah gets a percentage of what is spent. Or if you have certain stores you like to order from online – try **GoodShop** online. They list MANY stores and if you go through their website – and designate Messiah as your organization – our church gets a percentage (varies with each store) – again, at no additional cost to you! They also frequently offer coupons for each store. Another "pain-free" option is **Thrivent**. If you have accounts with them and you designate Messiah as your organization, they give a percentage based on your account balances to our church – at no cost to you. You might even like to consider signing on with Thrivent!
- **Fundraising** – we often talk about fundraisers and many people have suggested many types of fundraisers. However, to make these fundraisers work – we need to all come out and support, spread the word, and help with the event! Imagine the difference it would make if we all committed to helping with these events every year! More about fundraisers on page 11. There are some dates already set but help is needed! And when a "coordinator" is asked for – that shouldn't mean that person does all the work. It takes many hands to make these things happen. It's great to come to the spaghetti dinner and buy 2 tickets – but how about asking a couple friends to come too. And how about helping with set-up, cooking, food donations, clean-up, getting the word out? It could make a huge difference!

So let's all rally and make sure Messiah can continue our outreach for many years to come!!



THANK-YOU!

A special THANK YOU to everyone who is pitching in and helping during Pastor Lynne's leave of absence!! We need everyone's help, support and prayers! Please continue to pray for Pastor Lynne and her family – prayers, support and words of encouragement are appreciated!!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday, December 24th at 10:15 p.m.
Candle Light Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 25th 10:15 a.m.
Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 30th at 10:15 a.m.
Hymn Fest Worship Service



CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

There are two "Giving Trees in the Narthex and Friendship Place. Perhaps you can help make someone's Christmas and winter a little brighter?

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois:

Serving Illinois since 1867, LSSI is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI is the largest social service provider in the state. The organization provides critical programs for the state's most vulnerable residents including foster care, adoption, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and programs that help formerly incarcerated individuals integrate back into society.

The LSSI tree has tags with the first name of a child in need of a little cheer this Christmas. The tag also includes the child's age and ideas for gifts up to \$25. Please consider picking up gift tag(s) and purchase a present for the child, wrap it and leave it under the tree in the narthex by Sunday, December 9th

Moni Ryczek is coordinating the gift tags so questions can be directed to her at 847-692-6972.



"Warming Tree":

This intention of this tree found in the Friendship Place is to share the warmth of God's love to people in need this winter in our area – as well as to people around the world. We are collecting winter hats, scarves, gloves (not lightweight ones please) and socks. These items will be made available to our own guests from Assistance Ministry, as well as the Night Ministry and other local organizations who reach out to those in need. In addition we are collecting monetary donations to help offset the cost of materials for the quilts we send to Lutheran World Relief that warm people all over the world!

CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
25 9:00 AM CHAT Room 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship 2:00 PM HKCC Worship 3:30 PM HKCC Fellowship	26 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 11:00 AM Assistance Ministry 1:00 PM MLC Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AI-Anon Meeting	27 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 7:30 PM Gloria Dei Choir rehearsal
2 9:00 AM CHAT Room 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship 2:00 PM HKCC Worship 3:30 PM HKCC Fellowship	3 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 11:00 AM Assistance Ministry 1:00 PM MLC Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AI-Anon Meeting	4 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 7:30 PM Gloria Dei Choir rehearsal
9 9:00 AM CHAT Room 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship 2:00 PM HKCC Worship 3:30 PM HKCC Fellowship	10 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 11:00 AM Assistance Ministry 1:00 PM MLC Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AI-Anon Meeting	11 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 6:00 PM CCC Board Meeting 7:00 PM Lemons of Love 7:30 PM Gloria Dei Choir rehearsal
16 9:00 AM CHAT Room 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Quilts & Kits 2:00 PM HKCC Worship 3:30 PM HKCC Fellowship 5:00 PM Hope Advent Recital	17 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 11:00 AM Assistance Ministry 1:00 PM MLC Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:30 PM EC Meeting	18 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 4:15 PM CCC Christmas Program 7:30 PM Gloria Dei Choir rehearsal
23 9:00 AM CHAT Room 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship 2:00 PM HKCC Worship 3:30 PM HKCC Fellowship	24 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 11:00 AM Assistance Ministry 1:00 PM MLC Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AI-Anon Meeting 10:15 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	25 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:15 AM Christmas Day Service 7:30 PM Gloria Dei Choir rehearsal
30 9:00 AM CHAT Room 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship 2:00 PM HKCC Worship 3:30 PM HKCC Fellowship	31 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 11:00 AM Assistance Ministry 1:00 PM MLC Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AI-Anon Meeting	1 CCC and CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 7:30 PM Gloria Dei Choir r

DECEMBER 2018

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 9:15 AM Child Care Chapel 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 PM Bulletin Articles Due 12:00 PM CCC Staff Meeting 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer	29 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer	30 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 6:30 PM Scout Pack 105 Mtg 7:00 PM HAC Bible Study 7:00 PM HAC Rehearsal	1 11:00 AM HAC Worship 1:00 PM HAC Fellowship 4:00 PM Hanging of the Greens & Caroling 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer
5 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 9:15 AM Child Care Chapel 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 12:00 PM Bulletin Articles Due 12:00 PM CCC Staff Meeting 6:00 PM CCC Ginger Bread 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer	6 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 3:30 PM WAB	7 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 6:30 PM Pack 105 Meeting 6:30 PM Scout Pack 105 Mtg 7:00 PM HAC Bible Study 7:00 PM HAC Rehearsal	8 9:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast 11:00 AM HAC Worship 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer
12 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 9:15 AM Child Care Chapel 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 12:00 PM Bulletin Articles Due 12:00 PM CCC Staff Meeting 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer	13 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer	14 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 6:30 PM Pack 105 Meeting 7:00 PM HAC Bible Study 7:00 PM HAC Rehearsal	15 11:00 AM HAC Worship 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer
19 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 9:15 AM Child Care Chapel 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 12:00 PM Bulletin Articles Due 12:00 PM CCC Staff Meeting 4:15 PM CCC Christmas Prog 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer	20 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 1:00 PM NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 4:15 PM CCC Christmas Prog	21 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 7:00 PM HAC Bible Study 7:00 PM HAC Rehearsal	22 11:00 AM HAC Worship 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer
26 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 9:15 AM Child Care Chapel 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hrs 12:00 PM Bulletin Articles Due 12:00 PM CCC Staff Meeting 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer	27 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer	28 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 7:00 PM HAC Bible Study 7:00 PM HAC Rehearsal	29 11:00 AM HAC Worship 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer
2 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 9:15 AM Child Care Chapel 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 PM Bulletin Articles Due 12:00 PM CCC Staff Meeting 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer	3 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 3:30 PM WAB 7:00 PM Messiah Book Club	4 5:00 AM HKCC AM Prayer 6:30 PM Pack 105 Meeting 7:00 PM HAC Bible Study 7:00 PM HAC Rehearsal	5 11:00 AM HAC Worship 1:00 PM HAC Fellowship 8:00 PM HKCC PM Prayer

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE check with church office before you schedule an event – there is a room assignment calendar maintained by the Office Manager.

MESSIAH BOOK CLUB



The next Messiah Book Club will meet on January 3rd at 7:00 in the Friendship Place. We're reading "Calypso" by David Sedaris. It is open to anyone who enjoys reading. All are welcome. If anyone has any

questions, please contact Paul Holzer at 847-296-0734.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST



Saturday, December 8th at 9 a.m. All Messiah men are invited to Jimmy's on Rand Road in Des Plaines.

MANNA ORDERS

Manna orders will be due Monday, December 3rd at 9 a.m.!

There will be an additional opportunity to purchase gift cards before Christmas! Those orders are due December 17th at 9 a.m.!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

On Saturday, December 1st we will decorate the church just in time for Advent.

We'll start at 4:00 p.m. and work till 7:00 or until we're done! Pizza will be ordered and please feel free to bring a salad or dessert to share.

It is appreciated if you let the church office know if you can attend so we know how many people to anticipate for pizza! David Swanson will be leading us to "festivize" the church!



DECEMBER REMINDERS:

- Hanging of the Greens 12/1
- Giving Trees for LSSI and the "Warming Tree in the Narthex & Friendship Place
- CCC Christmas Programs 12/18 to 12/20 at 4:15 in the sanctuary
- Christmas Eve service 10:15 pm
- Christmas Service 10:15 am
- CCC closed 12/24 to 12/30
- MLC office closed 12/26
- Hymn Sing Service 12/30 10:15 am

COMING IN JANUARY:

- Yankee Candle Catalogue fundraiser ends January 9th
- Annual Report articles due January 14th!
- Roger Turek Chili/Soup Cook Off January 27th

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

- Annual Reports available in Narthex
- February 10th - Congregational Meeting - Immediately Following Sunday Service
- World Famous Messiah Spaghetti Dinner February 16th

FUNDRAISING

As was discussed in the article on Giving on page 6 Fundraising is becoming more and more necessary to help us meet our monthly budget expenses. Events have begun to be scheduled and help is needed to make these successful! The ways each of us can help are to:

- **Attend the event** – buy tickets, buy items – participate!
- **Spread the word about the event** – bring family, friends & neighbors. Let groups outside of Messiah that you are part of know about the event. The more the merrier!
- **HELP!!** Sometimes we need a coordinator – this does NOT mean you have to do all the work. The role of the coordinator is to request help, guide the efforts of the volunteers and make sure progress is being made to ensure a successful event. We also need volunteers to help make it a successful event. Volunteers work with the coordinator and perform the jobs they've committed to. What if we all committed to help with at least 2-3 events this year? What a difference it would make! We can't hold these events unless there are people to help.
- **Ideas** – if you here of a way to do a fundraiser, let EC know. Many businesses are now doing fundraisers by giving a percentage of whatever has been sold – check them out! But if you come with an idea – please be prepared to coordinate or help. Find a partner to work with. Figure out a plan!

At this point there are some hopeful/possible events in the works:

- **Yankee Candle Catalogue sale – going on NOW through January 9th.** There is a lot more besides candles available that are great for Christmas gifts, teacher gifts, hostess gifts, thank you gifts, just-because gifts – and since it runs into January – don't forget Valentine's Day!
All you need to do is shop from this link, www.yankeecandlefundrasing.com and type in the group number of 999988307. Be sure it says Messiah Lutheran Church before you order. **In order to receive your purchase before Christmas your order needs to be placed by the week of December 7th.** At the end of the fundraiser Messiah will receive 40% of all the profits! Please share with all of your family and friends. If you have additional questions please contact Alaine Wong in the church office. She saw the information on this and put it together!
- **January 27th - 2nd Annual Roger Turek Chili/Soup Cook Off** – what a great way to honor Roger! We are looking for one or two persons to take the lead organizing this event. This was a delicious success last year!
- **February 16th – Messiah's World Famous Spaghetti Dinner** – We are looking to find a person or team to lead this year's event. Proceeds go to Youth Program and the youth of Messiah and their parents assist with set up, serving and clean-up.
- And here are some more possibilities coming up – a plant sale (annuals) during the Child Care Center Fun Fair in May (Alaine Wong & Carol Hrodey looking into), Food Trucks during July 3 Fireworks (Dave Kaufman & Tim Saul looking into), Harvest Fest in October with some different twists (already being discussed by Alaine Wong & Carol Hrodey)
- It would be great to do some of those restaurant fundraisers – anyone have ideas of places you think would be good to contact?



What other ideas do you have and can get started working on? Let EC know!!

MILESTONES



Larry Dumerer, 12/1
Melissa Holzer, 12/1
Millie Anderson, 12/5
Rhonda Cady, 12/5
Dorothy Pollack, 12/6
Jennifer Hanson, 12/10

Aidan Loverme, 12/14
David Jensen, 12/18
Bobby Hanson, 12/19
Neena Penumaka, 12/23
Andrew Travis, 12/24

Laura Olson, 12/27
Marcella Larson, 12/28
Elaine von Schwedler, 12/30
Laura Hauser, 12/31

ANNIVERSARIES – NONE IN DECEMBER!

Please let us know if you do not see your birthday or anniversary here! We want to be sure to celebrate you!

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
December 2nd 1st Sunday in Advent			
Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
December 9th 2nd Sunday in Advent			
Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
December 16th 3rd Sunday in Advent			
Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
December 23rd 4th Sunday in Advent			
Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
December 24th Christmas Eve			
Isiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
December 25th Christmas Day			
Isiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2(1-7) 8-20
December 30th 4th Sunday in Advent			
1Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

WORSHIP TEAMS

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
	10:15 am	10:15 am	10:15 am	10:15 am	10:15 am
Acolytes	Evelyn A	Adam H	TBD	Caitlyn L	TBD
Assisting Ministers	David S	Pat K	Vikki H	Karen B	Cindy N
Readers	Marilynn D	Laura H	Larry R	Novena C	Pat K
Comm. Assts.	Aly A	Laura H	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ushers	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Projection & Video	Jim H & Paul H	Jim H & Paul H	Jim H & Paul H	Jim H & Paul H	Jim H & Paul H
Altar Guild	Sue K	Sue K	Nancy H	Cindy N	TBD
Counter	Jim H	Jim H	Jim H	Jim H	Jim H

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP TEAMS

	December 24	December 25
	10:15 pm	10:15 am
Acolytes	Ralphie L Ryan H	Caitlyn L
Assisting Ministers	Tryg J	Diane B
Readers	Janitha C Novena C Teresa L Tait J	Trygve J
Comm. Assts.	Theresa L Laura H	TBD
Ushers	TBD	TBD
Projection & Video	Jim H & Paul H	Jim H & Paul H
Altar Guild	Sue K	Sue K
Counter	Jim H	Jim H



FLOWERS AND BULLETINS

Sunday	Flowers are given ...	Bulletins are given ...
<p><i>The sign-ups for flowers and bulletins are in the narthex by the hall to the Educational Wing. Flowers are \$40, and the Bulletins are \$10. Envelopes are provided next to the sign-up calendar, or you may simply write "Flowers" or "Bulletin" on your regular envelope in the Other box.</i></p>		
December 2	Dave Hanson in memory of Donna Hanson	Available
December 9	Available	The Hauser Family in memory of George A Raica
December 16	Available	Available
December 23	Available	Available
Christmas	The altar will be decorated with the Poinsettia Garden – order yours today!	
December 30	Available	Available

CHURCH BUSINESS

EC CORNER Highlights from the November meeting include discussion about Annual Meeting (Feb 10), Music & Ministry coverage, Community/Church Growth, Prayerful Process, Property

November Attendance

Wk1=49 Wk3=38
Wk2=35 Wk4=42

October Giving (Gen. Fund & MAP)

Wk1=\$1302 Wk2=\$5421 Wk3=\$935.95 Wk4=\$1087

PRAYERFUL PROCESS

Tryg Jensen will be leading us in the Prayerful Process sessions this year to review leadership needs and our ministries. Sessions will be held during regular sessions of Chat Room, Quilts & Kits, Assistance Ministry, Choir, Brotherhood and Book Club. If you aren't normally involved in any of those particular groups – please attend one of the sessions anyway!! Its important that we hear from everyone! Sessions will start in December so watch for dates!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

STAFF		EXTENDED LEADERSHIP TEAM	
Pastor:	Rev. Lynne Morrow	Assistance Ministry:	Connie Kaufman
Music Ministry Coord.:		Altar Guild:	Sue Kopij, Cindy Norberg
Child Care Center Dir.	Karen Black	Brotherhood:	Rich Seggeling
Office Manager:	Alaine Wong	CHAT Room:	David Swanson
Bookkeeper:	Laura Hauser	Cross+Gen:	
Property Coordinator:	David Hanson	Confirmation/Youth:	Pat Kovach
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		Memorials:	Office Manager
President:	Larry Ryczek	Women's Svc. Group:	Trudi Handzel Carol Hrodey
Vice President:	Trygve Jensen	Spiritual Gifts Coord.:	
Secretary:	Aly Allemeier	Worship Assistants:	David Swanson
Treasurer:	Janitha Chellian	Worship Readers:	Rich Levy
Financial Sec.:	Jim Handzel	Ushers:	
CCC BOARD		John 17 Fellowship:	David Swanson
Chair:	Tim Saul, Erik Grove	Prayer Cards:	Jackie Steigerwald
Secretary:	Kathy Malyszko, Sue Kopij	Sign Ministry:	Staff
Treasurer:	Pat Kovach		
CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS			
Floyd Yager and Jennie Read Robles			

JOYFUL THANKSGIVING (NOVEMBER)

We are thankful to the doctors and hospital staff that assisted in the procedures needed by Pastor Lynne and we are grateful for a successful outcome. We appreciate Bill Decker for leading the music in worship today, thank you for sharing your talents with us.

We are blessed with the return of Karen Bruchman to lead the music for worship 11/11. We are also thankful to Laura Hauser for taking on the role as Bookkeeper for Messiah. We continue to be grateful to the Assistance Ministry team for all their hard work each Monday. With the weather turning colder the need for assistance is even more prevalent.

We are exceptionally thankful that Pastor Lynne has been released from the hospital and is recovering in the comfort of her own home. We are thankful for those who attended the Messiah Book Club meeting this past Thursday. We are also grateful to everyone who continues to support the ministries of Messiah.

We are thankful to Bill Decker who will be stepping in to lead music at Messiah for the month of December. We are also thankful to the Executive Committee for all of their hard work and dedication.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please include the following individuals and families in your prayers this month:

Our prayers for healing are with: Jake, Megan, Jim Frederick, Les & Mike Herak, Sandi, Tom, Carol, Pat, Michelle, Trudy, Lynne, Georgia, Patti, Ted, David, Beverly Grimme, Carol Hrodey, Bob Kallas Don Lorenzo, Frances, Russell, Bob Levy, Wendy, Diane, Polly, Rosemary, Susan, Pat & Ted, Kathy & David, Sandy Williams, Szuis family, Jacob C., Nancy H, Kathy Bashore, Tim Cook, Jeanette Garcia, Tina Jogman + family, Bishop Curry, Ellen Wyshel, Jennifer Marshall, Rosie, Joe, Tony, Phil Barco, Gera Mitiku, Geleta Mekonnen, Ursula Kalin, Nick Adam, Crystal Levy Pesce, Chris, Jordan McLain, Lynda Jeppesen Jordan McLain, Dumerer Family, Trudi Handzel, Marsha S, Marsha G, Dorothy Nagel, Linda (Rodin) Ufkes, Kwame Pitts, Cedric P., Marlena, Marsha Diamond, the Nemeth Family, Helen Young, Andrea Quintenilla, Bob Nelson, Pastor Lynne and her family, the Hauser Family, Diane Wilson, Joe Ketola, Doris' family, the Soucie Family, the Sapien Family, the family of Ryan Sernel, Carolyn Harbensee, Jillian & Simeon Bonilla, Ricky Redd, Porsia Bonilla, Margaret, Linka, Doug Hubbard, Ted Gradt, Sam Fogel, Russ Reynolds, Rich Levy, Charles Maynard, the family of Gilbert Garcia, Soto Family, Al Rembis, Mark Banaszak, Annette, Ashley Williams, Leslie, Tom Jencius, Ruth Perzentka, the Hanson family, Sharon Rose Keenon, Francis, Hailey and Johnny, Kathy, Rochele Kasny, Kathy Bayshore, Danny O'Connor, Tom Daniels, the Wiberg family, the family of Vern Frost, Felicia, Warren Lathan, the family of Jeff Koszczuk, Teri and Bill Muenster, John Francis, Cookie Bonilla and her sisters and brother, Annie's new baby and family (John, Elissia, Naz), Judy Jones, Carolyn Morrow, Doris Hay, Nancy Wendt, Ping, Bob Morrow, Michael Baumeister and family, Myra Lusiak, Szul family, Lukasz Stechnij, Dan, Lea, Katy, Beth Perfetti, Margot, David Swanson, Chuck Powers, Piper, Mr. Young, Auntie Helmke, Nancy Maltec (Rhonda Cady's mom), Chad Adams and Family, Dotty Burger, Terry DeSchepper, Dan S., Helmke Fields, Brad Kovach, Linda Ostrand, Jeanne Dumerer, Laura Soto, Bob and Justine Bisgard, Barb Loverme, Jeane Reeve, Eva Thoren, Julie Higgins,

Maria Raica, Arlene Baranowski, those living with cancer, those living with mental illness, those dealing with sorrow, Norb Wenson, Diane, people in silent pain.

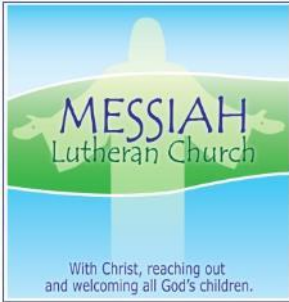
Those requesting prayers for **other purposes such as emotional, grief, financial, employment, general or unknown** are: Field School, everyone needing relief from all the rain/flooding, for world peace, the people of Syria, the family of Dwayne and Michelle Miller, Dave Hanson, Don and Mary Jane Kovach, John Francis, Anne Evans, Bill Zuhme, Debbie Dietrich, Salena Jason, the Jefferson family, Sarah Nugnis, Kevin Kovach, Terry K., Fred D., the families and staff of Child Care Center, Mike Wokisin, Haley Lippert, Eastaven Bargas, Meaghan, EB, Griffin family, Worknesh Deressa, Joann Wood, Penumaka family, Larry Dumerer, Fox family, Victoria Candiotti, Provenzano family, Kraiger family, those who live with anxiety and depression, families whom are seeking reconciliation, those who are unemployed or underemployed, those striving for peace in the Mideast, those living with addiction, those who are hungry, alone or homeless, our assistance guests, and all of those affected by hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

We want to remember in our prayers **military and first responder personnel** (those known to us and those serving who are not known to us): Jenni Hanson, Mikey Hanson, Jerred Engvall, Brandon Ajyek, Tim David, Tyler Daye, Bobby Hanson, Tom Hanson, Andreas Johnsen, Jason Koesler, Sam Krawitz, Joey Rosequist, Claudine Ward, Officer Matt McGannon.

We also want to remember in prayer our **college students**: Rachel Daye, Tommy Hanson, Melissa Holzer, Phil Holzer, Kevin Kovach, Nick Levy, Haley Lippert, Dina Salemi, Arden Sasak, Jake & Jessica Saul, Paul Song, Christian Travis, Thomas Yager.

** We understand that some prayer requests are short-term for specific events, while others find ongoing prayers to be powerful. We appreciate being updated so our prayer list is as current as possible.*





The Messiah MESSENGER

In this issue:

*Preparation: Advent
Christmas
Assistance Ministry
Quilts & Kits
Christian Education
December Events
What's Coming up in
January &
February*

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS

9 a.m. – Christian Learning Hour
10:15 a.m. – Worship and Communion

Child Care Center

Year-round 3-K
Monday – Friday
6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Other Schedules

Pastor's Office Hours

Available for non-scheduled appointments:
Mon. & Wed. – 10 a.m. -1 p.m. (PM visitations)
Available beyond these hours by appointment.

Church Office

Monday – Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Assistance Ministry

Monday – 11 a.m. -1 p.m. (west entrance)

MESSIAH
Lutheran Church

**1605 Vernon Avenue
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068**



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

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Homepage: www.messiahparkridge.org
Child Care Center Phone: (847) 825-3767
Child Care Email: MessiahChildCareCenter@gmail.com
Child Care Homepage: www.messiahchildcare.com

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**