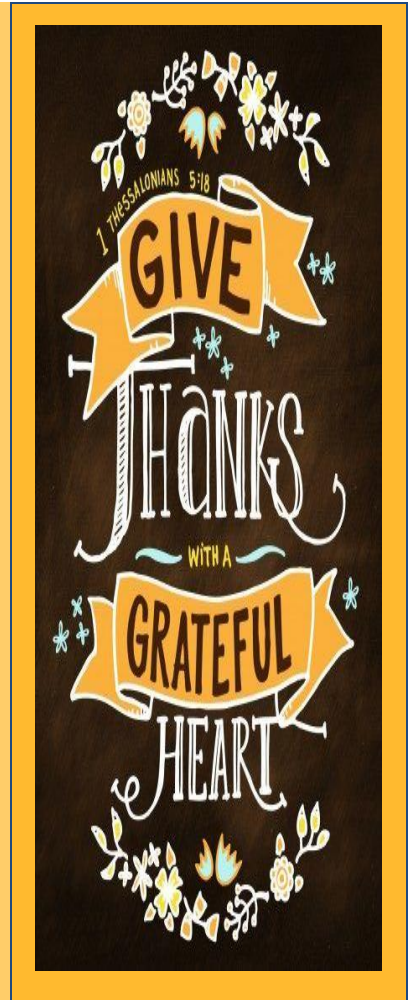


The Messiah MESSENGER

November 2020 - Issue #629

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

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FROM THE PASTOR

For an Election Season

"The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." These words of Martin Luther King Jr. have given hope to many people in times of distress.

However, King does not say that "the moral arc of United States history" bends toward justice, or even "world history." He is thinking at a more cosmic level. King's statement is really more about God, creator of the universe, than it is about the movement of history.

King's ultimate confidence is not in humans slowly getting wiser and better but in the God of justice who will not abandon God's purposes. In Jesus, God has shown us God's purposes for the world—which includes justice and dignity for all people. That underlying faith gave King the courage to act for justice and dignity despite the many reasons he had to give in to despair, and despite not knowing whether his own labors would ever bear fruit.

In the days ahead we will learn the outcome of the presidential election. Whatever the result, we know that one group of Americans will be deeply discouraged, even despairing, at the outcome, even as another group will be elated.

Whether we are among the elated or the despairing, King reminds us to put our trust in God, not in humans or the movement of history. God is at work in the world in ways we can't measure by the electoral college or other means.

That doesn't mean we sit back and wait for God to act someday, or turn our backs on our neighbors. On the contrary, the way to keep alive our hope in God is by staying close to Jesus in prayer and in the community of faith, and by joining Jesus in feeding the hungry, healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, caring for children, and seeking justice for all. By joining ourselves to what Jesus is doing in the world we become part of the fabric of genuine hope.

The movements of history are beyond our calculation, but we can know the One at the center of history. "With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:8-10).

Faithfully, Pastor David



Executive Committee Corner from the Executive Committee:

Worship services will be online-only through 2020

At its meeting on October 12, the Executive Committee decided that Messiah will continue holding online-only services through the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and the end of the year. The committee will continue to monitor the situation and revise plans accordingly.

Though many commercial institutions are open, the committee notes that a crucial and distinctive part of Christian community is caring for the well-being of its members. We lean toward being especially cautious for the sake of the health of congregation members.

The committee is also mindful that worship is different from an activity like shopping in that worship involves the continued projection of air through speech and song.

We have also taken into account the older demographics of the Messiah community, the compact nature of our sanctuary, and the expectation of a spike in cases this fall.

Though the Metro Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offers guidelines for resuming in-person services, the synod also stresses that decisions about how and whether to gather in person are left to each congregation according to its judgment and particular situation.

In its most recent statement on Covid, issued in October, the Synod emphasized that research now shows that Covid-10 can be spread by airborne transmission.

This means that the virus can infect people who are greater than 6 feet from the infected person and can do so even after the individual has left the area. Airborne transmission most often occurs in enclosed spaces and when there is prolonged exposure to respiratory particles.

Like all of you, we grieve that the coming Advent and Christmas season will not be what we hoped it would be.

We will continue to review this topic in the months ahead. Meanwhile, we are confident that our pastoral and worship leaders will do all they can to keep us connected in faith and to keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Executive Committee

Paul Holzer Vikki Hanson

Jim Handzel David Jensen

We thank the Executive Committee for continuing to lead us through this difficult time.

Online Church Services Continue:



As a reminder, all of the church services can be viewed through two different avenues. All of the services are posted on the Messiah Facebook page as well as our YouTube channel under the name Messiah Park Ridge. The YouTube channel can be found at this web address,

<https://www.youtube.com/user/holzerp>. If you need help

accessing either viewing platforms please reach out to the church office and we can help. Thanks to Paul Holzer for making sure we can participate virtually in worship for the last 3 years!

NOVEMBER 2020 (continued)

Ways to Donate

Messiah still needs your support! There are still bills to pay to continue to operate! Besides the traditional check or cash donation/offering (which can be mailed to the church office), there are various other ways to support Messiah. Check out Messiah's website on ways to contribute:

<https://www.messiahparkridge.org/contribute.html>

A variety of avenues to contribute are outlined including via Messiah's Facebook page, Pay Pal (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2770654>), Simply Giving, Amazon Smile and Good Shop. For those who do holiday shopping online, check out these online shopping opportunities that also support Messiah:



As more of us are doing our shopping online please remember to use AmazonSmile when shopping on Amazon. With Messiah designated as your charity of choice, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a portion of every qualifying order to Messiah. If you need instructions on how to set up your AmazonSmile account, please reach out to the church office and we can assist you.

Many of us are quite familiar with online shopping through AmazonSmile and how Messiah receives benefits from users shopping. We would also like to once again bring light to another form of giving that also benefits the shopper, Goodshop. The Goodshop is an online source that offers coupon codes to online shoppers all while giving a percentage back to the shopper's charity of choice. Win, Win! Once you have created an account and selected your charity of choice, all you have to do, before starting your online shopping, is to first go to the www.goodshop.com and find the coupon code of the store you will be ordering from. You then copy the coupon code, do your shopping, and paste the code in the appropriate area during check out. That's it! Messiah will receive a percentage from your order directly from Goodshop. The percentage amount is listed alongside the code.



Communication With Church & Each Other:

Phone messages, regular mail and email continue to be monitored throughout the week. If you are in need of pastoral care, please leave a message on the church phone or send an email to the church at office@messiahparkridge.org or Pastor David at messiahpastor1605@gmail.com. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Pastor David and the church office are sending out several emails each week to help keep the people of Messiah connected during this time. If you have an email address that you receive messages from church, please be sure to check it regularly so you don't miss any updates. If you know someone who doesn't have email or doesn't check it regularly, please keep them up to date!

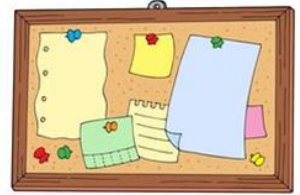


Communication with Church & Each Other (continued)

In addition to communicating with church staff, let's continue to keep in touch with each other. A phone call, an email, a text or even a note via snail mail can make a difference in someone's day. Being isolated at home can take a toll on all of us so let's make sure we check in with each other and stay connected! "With Christ, Reaching Out....."

The Messiah Message Board!

If you have information to share—celebrations, prayer concerns, messages or just news of interest to the people of Messiah—please pass it on to the church office via email (send to office@messiahparkridge.org). We will be updating the Messiah Message Board weekly. Please send news to the office by 5:00 pm on Wednesday.



Let's Get Virtual!

During the pandemic we have been able to participate in online worship, coffee hours, messaging and other ways to stay in touch and continue with God's mission for Messiah. Everyone is encouraged to take these opportunities to stay connected and learn/practice this technology! We don't know how long we'll need to use it – plus who knows what other ministry avenues might the technology might open up! If you need help accessing any of these online opportunities, contact the church office or Paul Holzer.



NOVEMBER 2020 Virtual Activities!



Men's VIRTUAL Brotherhood Breakfast

Men's Brotherhood will hold a Virtual Breakfast gathering on Saturday, November 14th at 9:00 a.m. All Messiah men are invited to participate. Watch your email for notice of how to connect on the 14th! Contact Rich Seggeling or Paul Holzer if you have questions.



Virtual Coffee Hour:

We will continue to have periodic virtual coffee hours after service. The dates and means of accessing will be communicated via the weekly emails and on Facebook. We are trying different access tools to see what works best. Be sure to watch for details and try to join in! It's another great way to stay connected!

Did You Know

What it takes to produce our virtual worship services and activities? It takes a crew of dedicated people! Thanks to Paul Holzer, Jim Handzel, Pastor David, Bill Decker and Alaine Wong for their work to help us continue to worship and stay in touch! And thanks to our Sunday "Music Assistants" (Aly Allemeier, Nancy Herak, Barbara Hofmaier, Paul Holzer, David Jensen and Larry Ryczek)! Did you know when they've sung outside, they can't see Bill Decker at the keyboard who is inside? Amazing synchronization!! GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!

MESSIAH MINISTRIES



OUR MISSIONARY: REVEREND DR. PHILIP KNUTSON

Check out Pastor Knutson's blog at
southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com

Excerpt from Pastor Knutson's September Newsletter: "... During this time of COVID-19, other pandemics have surfaced such as Gender Based Violence, corruption and poverty... But we have a good story to tell... Forget the negative... Glorify the name of Jesus Christ... rejoice that all of our names are included in the Book of Life... and proclaim peace, unity, reconciliation and reconstruction...a new beginning..." These were some of the words from the sermon, based on Luke 10:17-20, preached by Nkosinathi Myaka, the newly consecrated bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa – South Eastern Diocese.

Music Ministry: A Packed Month

For followers of Christ, the month of November is pretty packed.

For All the Saints: Sunday, November 1 is All Saints Sunday, remembering those who have died during the year and the eternal gift of life that God promises to give us. In celebration of this day, congregations often sing the multi-versed, grand, and march-like melody of "For All the Saints." The lyrics were written by English Bishop William How in the 19th century. The melody we sing today was composed by the famed English composer Ralph Vaughn Williams at the beginning of the 20th century. It is number 422 in the ELW. Perhaps some of you might wish to listen to an English choir from Cambridge University singing the Hymn. Here is the link: [For All the Saints](#).

All Hail the Power: Three Sundays later, November 22, marks the end of the current "Church Year," as well as the last day of Pentecost 2020. It is called "Christ the King Sunday," a day that reminds the followers of Christ where final power and authority ultimately reside. It reminds us of Jesus's final words recorded in Matthew: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18 and following. "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (ELW 634) and "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (ELW 855) are often sung on this Sunday.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel: The following Sunday, November 29 (there are five Sundays in November this year) is the beginning of a new Church Year. The First Sunday in Advent is Nov. 29; four weeks later Advent culminates in the celebration of God's intervention in the affairs of humanity: the birth of Christ and the joys of the Christmas season. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (ELW 257) is often featured during this season.

Lest I Forget Thanksgiving: Some families, as they gather around the Thanksgiving dinner table (it's Nov. 26 this year!), share what they have been most grateful to God for since the last Thanksgiving. One huge thing for me, as your church musician, is my gratitude for all those singers who have volunteered as "Music Assistants" during Sunday worship because of the pandemic. This has included Nancy Herak, Aly Allemaier, David Jensen, Barbara Hofmaier, Larry Ryczek, and Paul Holzer. Likewise, many thanks to Paul Holzer and Jim Handzel for applying their technical skills to stream our worship services live as well as record them to watch on *YouTube*. Well done to all of you!

Bill Decker, Music Coordinator

MESSIAH MINISTRIES (continued)

Assistance Ministry

Our Assistance Ministry team continues to provide meals to go on Mondays. We've had several new guests and have welcomed back a few guests from the past. We typically serve 11-18 guests.

We've been serving a hot meal with sides, a sandwich, fruit, salad or hard-boiled eggs (at times), dessert, granola bars and water or Gatorade.

We know that not everyone is able to be present to serve our guests. We would welcome a hot meal...think chicken, ham, meatloaf, chili, casseroles, rice, potatoes, ...or even sub sandwiches, pasta, meatballs, etc. if anyone wants to contribute. We could even pick up!

We've started allowing one guest inside at a time to look through clothing in the hallway by the bathrooms. Our guests do not use the bathrooms or enter the narthex or Friendship Place, but we are able to provide social distancing this way and see that they are able to receive clothing and toiletries that they need.

Thank you to everyone who contributes through prayer, gifts, bringing food, masks, clothing and serving. The need continues to be great.

With thanks, Connie Kaufman



Quilts & Kits

While we still can't meet on Sundays following worship services to assemble quilts, we are considering some limited sessions to finish quilts that were pinned last year. These sessions would be done with limited numbers of people and following strict safety guidelines. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Trudi or Carol. If you've been spending your quarantine time at home cleaning out closets, we also are happy to take donations of flat sheets (any size) or material for our quilts. Meanwhile, if you happen to be shopping and want to contribute to personal care or school kits, check out the following lists. Or make a donation to Messiah's Quilts & Kits and we'll shop for you! For more information or to make a direct donation to LWR go to: <https://lwr.org>
Carol Hrodey & Trudi Handzel

The school kits each have to contain the following according to LWR requirements:

- 4 70-page spiral notebooks
- 5 ball point pens
- 5 pencils
- 1 pair blunt tipped scissors
- 1 eraser
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 ruler (must include one metric side)
- 1 box of 24 crayons



The personal care kits have to contain the following according to LWR requirements:

- 1 bath towel (lightweight, dark color preferred)
- 2 bars of bath soap (4-5 oz each)
- 1 adult size toothbrush
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clipper



MESSIAH MINISTRIES (continued)

Christian Education

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

Last month the Child Care Center held a small Harvest Fest for the children. The fest was held outside in the back-parking lot and the children enjoyed pumpkin painting, crafts, treats, and more.

Upcoming Manna order dates:

Orders Placed By

November 9th

November 30th

December 14th

Available for Pick-Up

November 12th

December 3rd

December 17th

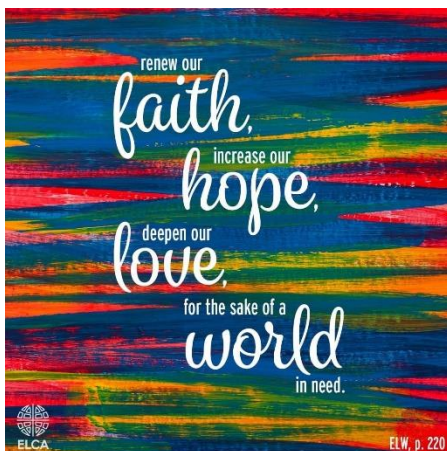
The logo for Manna, featuring the word "Manna" in a red, bubbly font with a white heart shape inside the letter 'a'.

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



Confirmation

Confirmation continues virtually under the leadership of Pat Kovach! Our students are studying what it means to be Lutheran, and the Old & New Testament's of the Bible. They will also learn about the major stories, people & themes of God's love for His people.



THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

We're including the scripture readings for November. Once we know when services can resume, we will reach out to Worship Teams.

1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
November 1st All Saints Day			
Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
November 8th 23rd Sunday after Pentecost			
Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 15th 24th Sunday after Pentecost			
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 22nd Christ the King			
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
November 29th First Sunday of Advent			
Isiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-17, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37



A Prayer as I Put on My Mask:

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth—

let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace"—

a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully—and full of care—to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray.

Amen

— Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada



MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM REPORT

All gifts to the Memorial & Honorarium Fund are automatically acknowledged to the giver and donee or family by a personal note. Unless otherwise designated, all gifts go into the General Fund. Addresses and envelope numbers on memorial cards or checks are much appreciated. The purpose of this report is to confirm that gifts are received. If you don't see your gift listed here after two months, please contact the church office.

In memory of Neil Hauser from the Hauser Family.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

All Saints' Remembrance

As we observe All Saint's Day on Sunday, November 1st, we give special thanks for those in our Messiah family who have graced our lives with their presence, but have gone to their heavenly home this past year:

Harold Baum
Marilyn Borgeson



A History of All Saints' Day

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/All-Saints-Day>

All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows' Day, Halloween, or Feast of All Saints, in the Christian church, a day commemorating all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. It is celebrated on November 1 in the Western churches and on the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Eastern churches. In Roman Catholicism, the feast is usually a holy day of obligation.

The origin of All Saints' Day cannot be traced with certainty, and it has been observed on various days in different places. A feast of all martyrs was kept on May 13 in the Eastern church according to Ephraem Syrus (died c. 373), which may have determined the choice of May 13 by Pope Boniface IV when he dedicated the Pantheon in Rome as a church in honour of the Blessed Virgin and all martyrs in 609. The first evidence for the November 1 date of celebration and of the broadening of the festival to include all saints as well as all martyrs occurred during the reign of Pope Gregory III (731–741), who dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's, Rome, on November 1 in honour of all saints.

In 800 All Saints' Day was kept by Alcuin on November 1, and it also appeared in a 9th-century English calendar on that day. In 837 Pope Gregory IV ordered its general observance. In medieval England the festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is still known as Halloween. The period from October 31 to November 2 (All Souls' Day) is sometimes known as Allhallowtide.

Christ the King Sunday

On November 22nd we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. The following is an article from Britannica:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Feast-of-Christ-the-King>

Feast of Christ the King, also called Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, festival celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church in honour of Jesus Christ as lord over all creation. Essentially a magnification of the Feast of the Ascension, it was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. Originally, it was celebrated on the last Sunday in October, but in the revised liturgical calendar promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969 it was moved to the last Sunday of Ordinary Time (immediately preceding Advent), where its theme of Christ's dominion made it a fitting end to the liturgical year. The festival is also observed in Lutheran, Anglican, and other Protestant churches.



Thanksgiving

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday during this time of unprecedented uncertainty in our world, we may struggle with the question of "what are you thankful for?" The following is an excerpt from an online article by Latoya:

How to be Thankful During Hard Times

3 Ways to Practice Being Thankful During Hard Times

I had a hard time finding things to be thankful for. I would look around me and see heartache and chaos and just not see anything to be grateful for. It took some time but I realized

that I was looking in the wrong place.

Often, if we are going through a trial, the place to look when we want to be thankful is not at ourselves and our circumstances. Focusing on yourself and your problems is a sure way to remain ungrateful, angry, and bitter.

Instead here are 3 ways that I want to encourage you to practice being thankful in hard times:

#1 Remember that God is in control

I live for a plan. When things are out of my control I feel confused and anxious. It is very hard for me to learn to let things go, but when I do, I often find peace. That peace comes from knowing God's in control, even when I have no idea what's going on.

We never go through these hard times alone; God is always there! He knows what you are going through and He knows how He is going to bring you out.

Take a few minutes each day to thank God for having your best interest at heart, for having a plan to bless you, and for loving you enough to walk through the fire with you.

#2 Offer forgiveness

I can hold a grudge like my life depends on it. I don't like to forgive people, especially when they have hurt me. It isn't fair and I often feel like I'm letting them off the hook.

Forgiving, especially when it's hard, is a great way to cultivate a heart of thanksgiving. Every time I don't want to forgive, I think about how God has forgiven me of so many sins in the past.

When I reflect on that I can't help but feel thankful for the grace that I have been given. And when I realize the importance of that it becomes easier for me to forgive others.

Thanksgiving (continued)

#3 Keep your joy

Keeping your focus on God helps you learn to let go of bitterness and unforgiveness. Be sure to take time to hold on to your joy. When the hard times beat down on us, Satan often uses those moments to steal our joy.

Don't let him!

I have learned over the years that I can find joy in any circumstance if I have the right focus.

When I keep my eyes on God I am not overwhelmed by my hurts and pain.

I can get up each day and be thankful that I don't have to try and figure things out for myself. I no longer have trouble falling asleep. And best of all I've learned to embrace the words that slapped in the face a few months ago.

What helps you to be thankful during hard times?

Colossians 3:15-17: And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)

<https://latoyaedwards.net/being-thankful-during-hard-times-2/#:~:text=%203%20Ways%20to%20Practice%20Being%20Thankful%20During,you%20learn%20to%20let%20go%20of...%20More%20>

Advent Begins November 29th



Saying that 2020 has been a difficult year is an understatement – and the uncertainty of what's ahead this winter can seem daunting. Advent is generally a season of hope and anticipation as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus but it can be hard to wrap our minds around this season during these challenging times. Vinita Hampton Wright wrote the following article a few years ago but much of it rings true in 2020 – with a few adjustments:

Advent Again—Time for Practicing Hope

The thing about the Christian year is that it keeps coming around. Over and over again, we get to try our hearts and minds and hands at Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. We get to dust off the liturgies and speak or sing them again. We get to try old prayers in new ways—or try new prayers on old themes. We get to pick up our symbols and phrases and turn them slowly and look at them and listen to them repeatedly and allow their many layers and nuances to speak to us.

This is called spiritual practice. So, yes, it's Advent again. But that is how it should be. We have a season ahead of us in which to rehearse and reenact the sacred story of *God Is on the Way! God Will Soon Be with Us in the Most Extraordinary Way!* Hope is coming; love is coming. A shining realm of peace and wholeness is, truly, coming.

We have a season in which to give our faith a workout, in which to exercise our hope muscles. Some years make that exercise more difficult than others. But it's Advent now, and, as people of faith, we are called upon to exercise our hope.

If hope isn't created for times such as these—when countries are divided, when civil war

Advent (continued)

annihilates whole communities and sends refugees fleeing, when hungry children are ignored because their interests are of no interest to powerful entities, when human beings are trafficked by the thousands to be used for sex or cheap labor, when industry and wealth win over the health of the planet and all its creatures and the global community—if hope isn't created for times such as these, then why have hope at all?

So, let's try Advent once again. Let's practice a hopeful way of being in the world.

- Sing the songs.
- Ring the bells.
- Put up the decorations.
- Tell the stories.
- Give lots and lots to all sorts of worthy charities.
- Open your home to those who need welcome; pretend each one of them is the baby Jesus, born on the road and needing help. (*editor's note: perhaps we can't literally open our homes right now so let's change "home" to "heart"*)
- Use your creative gifts: to write, bake, paint, act, make quilts or sound financial plans.
- Go to church. (*editor's note: at this time let's worship virtually*)
- Go to the neighborhood hang-out or the family party (*editor's note: perhaps we have to "hang-out" this year via zoom or face time – or just on the phone or email – anyway to keep in touch!*)
- Pay attention to the kids and welcome their very selves.
- Don't leave pets out in the snow.
- **Don't give up prayer because life feels raw and scary.**
- Don't hurry through Advent because you're not terribly good at living it; just let it live in the real life you have.
- **Don't forget that God loves you.**
- **And please don't forget that God loves everybody else too.**

He came for us all. Together, we wait for the holy child.

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent-again-a-time-for-practicing-hope/>

ELCA News

Synod Assembly

Many events this year have had to change their format due to Covid restrictions, the Metro Chicago synod assembly being one of them. Instead of gathering in one place for the duration of the synod assembly it was taken online as a virtual assembly. The event highlighted stories from various MCS congregations, listened to songs, and heard reports from the bishop and other MCS staff. You can view the assembly

on YouTube through this link,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4Di9Fq_p18.



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The synod assembly included a report from Bishop Yehiel Curry where he addresses COVID-19 response and antiracism work.

The full report can be viewed online through the Metro Chicago Synod website,
<https://hello.mtselca.org/>.

COMING SOON

Reverse Advent Calendar

The season of Advent is a time for giving and blessing others.

For many years

Messiah has purchased gifts for

LSSI families,

donated winter outerwear to the

Night Ministry and

continued to donate

goods to the Maine Township food pantry. We

would like to continue Messiah's wonderful tradition of giving but with a bit of a twist this

year. Instead of using a traditional Advent

calendar this year, we are suggesting each

household adopt a "reverse Advent calendar"!

A reverse Advent calendar works by filling a box every day with an item on the list. We've included a suggested list of items that can be

used to help those

who are less

fortunate that are

struggling at

Christmas time. We

ask that each

household fill a box

with the items listed

below and we will

work with the

Assistance Ministry

team for a collection date and time for your

donations to be dropped off at church.



Messiah Reverse Advent Calendar 2020

Please collect an item every day beginning

December 1st and place in a box to be dropped off

at Messiah during designated times. Items will be

used for Assistance Ministry, Night Ministry and

Maine Township Food Pantry. (all foods should be

non-perishable & in easy open cans/containers)

1st Socks

2nd Tuna Fish

3rd Peanut Butter

4th Travel Size Toothpaste

5th Box of Cereal

6th Can of Soup (Pull Tab Can)

7th Spaghetti Sauce

8th Macaroni & Cheese

9th Travel Size Body Wash or Bar of Soap

10th Apple Sauce

11th Winter Gloves

12th Rice

13th Canned Fruit (Pull Tab Can)

14th Travel Size Shampoo

15th Spam/Meals in a Pull Tab Can

16th Pasta

17th Pasta Sauce

18th Winter Hat

19th Oatmeal

20th Hand/Toe Warmers

21st Cooking Oil (canola, olive or vegetable oil)

22nd Granola Bars

23rd Food Storage Bags

24th Winter Scarf

Christmas Poinsettias

Keeping with tradition, we will be ordering red poinsettias to decorate the

Sanctuary for Christmas. Each plant with a pot cover will cost \$15.00. All orders

are due to the office by Monday December 7th at 9:00 am. You will be able to

pick-up your plant home with you after the Christmas morning service. For those

who receive the monthly Messenger by mail you will receive a copy of the order

form inserted into the messenger. A PDF will be attached to the weekly Messiah

Message Board that can be printed, completed and mailed back to the church office.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for each other, our congregation, our families, our community, our state, our country and the world during this challenging time.

Those who are ill, in recovery, or facing adversity:

The Dumerer Family The Hauser Family Don & Mary Jane Kovach
Trudi & Jim Handzel Bob Kallas Richard Levy
Daniel Kovach Carol Hrodey Joe & Nick Levy

Maria Raicia (*mother of Laura Hauser*)

Sonja Snell, Eunice Morris, & Laura Decker (*family of Bill and Cindy Decker*)

Katie Brandon and Carol Rudy (*friends of Dotty Burger*)

Domonic & Leah Mareuccilli Family, Anne Flick (*Friends of the Lippert Family*)

Teresa & José (*aunt & uncle of Cookie Bonilla*)

Pat & Ted Gradt and Amanda Jensen (*friends and family of the Jensen Family*)

Ron, Carol, Margot, Maggie, Steve W., Mary, Bruce, and Terry DeSchepper
(*friends of David Swanson*)

George, Pattie & Chris Aaron, Sandi & Tom Farley, J.T., Becky, Ann, and Julie & Ed (*family & friends of the Handzel Family*)

Ed & Toni (*friends of Rich Seggeling*)

Those who are homebound:

Arlene Baranowski Barb Loverme Dorothy Nagel
Eva Thoren

Those serving in the armed services and first responders:

(*those known to us & all those who serve*)

Brandon Ajyek Tim David Tyler Daye
Jarred Engvall Bobby Hanson
Jenni Hanson Mikey Hanson Andreas Johnson
Claudine Ward Jason Koesler
Joey Rosequist Brian Nagel Eric Nagel
David Nagel Officer Matt McGannon



Those attending college and graduate school:

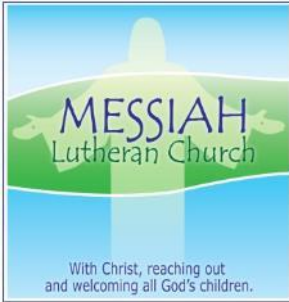
Thomas Yager Phil Holzer Nick Levy Novena Christal Haley Lippert Dina Salemi
Arden Sasak Adam Hauser Christian Travis Ryan Hauser Kevin Kovach Trygve Jensen
Nikolas Ryczek Michael Yager

Those who celebrate:

Richard Nugnis, 11/5 Curt Preissner, 11/6 Lisa Paulus, 11/7
Alexis Chervinko, 11/11 Mary Jo Marchetta, 11/17 Carolyn Clauser, 11/19
Kirsten Boyce, 11/23 Dorothy Burger, 11/23 Arden Sasek, 11/25 Betty Stinnett 11/25
Andrew Fox, 11/27 Charles Tarochione, 11/28

Anniversaries this month

Allyson & Scott Allemier, 11/7 (17 years) Brad & Pat Kovach, 11/24 (40 years)



The Messiah MESSENGER

Worship Currently Occurs Virtually on Sundays at 10:15

Child Care Center
Year- round 3-K
Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Other Schedules
Pastor's Office Hours
Available upon request

Church Office
Mondays, Wednesday, & Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Assistance Ministry
Monday 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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Christ the King
Thanksgiving
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ELCA News*

MESSIAH
Lutheran Church
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ELCA.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

**Place
Stamp
Here**

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**