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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe that we are at the beginning of another year. Interestingly enough January is named after the Roman god Janus, the guardian of doors and gates. The month of January, which opens the door to the New Year and closes it to the past, was sacred to him. As a door has two sides, so Janus was represented by having two faces. The doors of his temple in the Forum were shut in time of peace and open in time of war. In Rome's history these gates were rarely closed.

I find it interesting that Jesus associated Himself with a door. "I am the door, if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved." (John 10:9) How beautiful it is to enter the door of the New Year through Jesus our Lord and Savior. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We live in a world that is filled with conflict and strife. Many times we hope that the New Year will go better than the previous year. Often times that does not happen. Conflict and strife is the result of sin and sin is very prevalent in our world today. Entering a New Year through the door of Jesus doesn't guarantee that there will be no struggle but it does assure us that in the midst of our struggles we are not alone. Jesus goes with us throughout the year.

Messiah has many challenges and opportunities throughout the 2019 ministry year. We have many plans in place to carry out our mission of "Living Jesus, Sharing Jesus in our community and world." I am excited to see how God will work through the members of Messiah individually and collectively.

God is good all the time. I pray God's blessing to you and your family.

In Jesus' name.

Pastor Allen Stuckwisch



Pastor, Matt, and Chuck provided music during the Children's Christmas Service

Service Cancellations



Although we have been blessed with mild weather so far this winter, we have plans in case of severe weather.

If it is necessary to cancel worship services because of weather

- We will post the cancellation on WKRC-TV, channel 12.
- We will also send an e-mail to everyone who is on the Messiah E-News distribution list. If you are not on the E-News distribution list you can simply notify **Linda Permann** in the church office. She will be happy to add you to the list.
- Finally, we will post a notice on the Messiah web site, www.messiahgrh.org. and send out a tweet. If you like Messiah on Facebook and/or follow us on Twitter you will be notified. If you have any questions about Facebook or Twitter please see **Hailey Robertson**.

Upcoming Events

Jan 5 Men's Bible Breakfast
Jan 6 Ladies "Epiphany" Party
Jan 18 Cincinnati Youth Lock-In
Jan 20 Cyclones Hockey Game
Mar 8/10 Ohio District Junior High
Youth Gathering



From the Elders

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked "where is the one who has been born king of the Jews. We saw his star in the east and came to worship him. (Matthew 2: 1-3)

On January 6th we begin the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is from the Greek meaning "reveal" or "make manifest" During this season we focus on the revelation of who Jesus is: both true God and man.

In the first part of chapter 2 of Matthew's Gospel we learn about the Wise Men, or Magi. (The entire story is contained in the first 12 verses of chapter 2) Although Matthew doesn't tell us how many Magi there were, we assume three because of the three gifts that were presented. We also don't know for sure where they came from. All we know is that they "came from the east" Matthew also tells us that they came following a star searching for "the one who has been born king of the Jews". They bowed down in acknowledgement that this infant was indeed the Christ, the Son of God. As we begin the Epiphany season, let's all remember what the Magi knew: the baby Jesus was born a king, the Christ, the Son of God. He came into this world for one purpose, to save us all from our sin. We are saved by the grace of God. It is a FREE gift. We can not earn it and we certainly do not deserve it. Thanks be to God for this precious gift!

Elders continue to monitor the congregations, visitors and members who have missed more than 4 weeks in a row. We want to be sure that no one slips through the cracks or feels like they have been forgotten. If we do contact you, it is simply because we care about you and your family.

John Hiler has agreed to serve as the Chairman of the Elders for this year. We also welcome **Rich Rutz and Steve Horner** to our group.

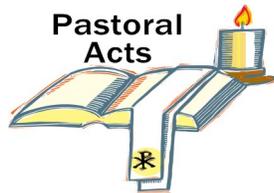
If you have not picked up your 2019 offering envelopes yet, please be sure to do so. If you don't see yours please speak to an Elder.

Although we hope that we will not have to cancel worship services because of inclement weather, it is still a possibility. Please be sure to review the article about that elsewhere in the Messenger. We will try to give you as much advance notice as possible. If you are not sure be sure to check one of the sources mentioned before you leave home.

The Elders want to encourage everyone to use their gifts for the good of the entire body of Christ here at Messiah. There are many areas where your help is needed. We are always in need of ushers, readers, Sunday school teachers just to mention a few. Talk to an Elder if you want to help,

See you in worship!

John Hiler, Shawn Horner, Steve Horner, Tom Mueller Rich Rutz



We rejoice with Aric and Katie Woolley at the baptism of their son Aric, Jr. on December 25, 2018.

Our sympathies to Jerry and Shelley Rice and families at the death of Penny Rice (Jerry's mother). Funeral service was December 13, 2018.

Pastor Stuckwisch officiated at both services.

Men's Bible Breakfast

Beginning January 5th, Messiah Lutheran Church will have a Men's Bible Breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8:00am to 9:00am.

Breakfast will be served followed by a 30 minute Bible Study discussing a scripture passage selected for the day. Please plan on attending and bring a friend.



From the Congregation President

Thank You for your support, patience and Christian love

With this being my last article as Messiah’s president, I would like to thank the congregation for showing the Messiah Leadership Team (Pastor, DCE, Leadership Board, Elders) excellent support, patience, and Christian love. The church’s Leadership Team needs to be encouraged and challenged to lead Messiah, but your support, patience, and Christian love energize your leaders. Thank you. Messiah is blessed at having **Chris Berndt** take over as president and **John Priebe** as vice president. They both have been very involved in various ministries at Messiah and will be excellent leaders. We added **Steve Horner and Rich Rutz** as new Elders and **Diane Wolford and Chuck Degenhardt** as new Leadership Board members. I am excited about the new ideas and energy these people will bring to the Messiah Leadership Team. In 2019, we have in place a church leadership team and staff that will lead us in our goal of being **a 21st Century Church living Jesus and sharing Jesus in our community and the world**. Please show these volunteer leaders and staff the same support, patience, and Christian love that you have been showing the past few years and they will do an excellent job for Messiah.

I will end my term as president with a special thank you to all those who participated in the 2019 Stewardship Drive. The increased participation and pledged giving was amazing and showed how deeply committed our congregation is to our current staff and ministries. Messiah indeed has plenty to be thankful for. At a time when mainstream denominational churches are declining and closing every month, Messiah is stable. Messiah’s worship attendance may have plateaued, but we have the resources: people, finances, energy, and talent to grow and be a continued blessing for generations to come.

Jim Worachek

2018 Messiah Giving and Expenses	
Nov Income	\$28,985
Nov Expenses	\$34,025
	(\$5,040)
Year to Date Income	\$326,851
Year to Date Expenses	\$345,050
	(\$18,199)

YTD Expenses are under the budget by \$35,157. [Great Stewardship](#)
YTD Giving is under budget by \$14,618
YTD Pledged Giving is under budget by only \$2,544

Messiah is Live! Our Sunday morning worship services at 8:30 and 10:45 are being streamed live on YouTube every weekend. These services are also available to replay about 1 hour after their conclusion. We will also stream other services as sound board personnel are available. While Messiah Leadership encourage you to attend in person for all worship opportunities, we understand that illness and vacation may prevent that and provide this to you as an option. We are also using this capability to expand our digital footprint.

You can access our YouTube channel two ways:

- Go to Messiah webpage (www.messiahgrh.org) and select the “Watch Us Live” link or the YouTube “Play” icon. That will take you directly to our channel.
- Search the internet (Google) with the keywords “Youtube Messiah Lutheran Greenhills channel”

Once at our channel, you can watch past services. If we are Live, you will see an option to select the Live Stream. If you have any issues, don’t hesitate to contact **Chris Berndt** (berndt_chris@yahoo.com or 513-755-6110).



Book Club – will meet on January 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the home of **Sandy Walter**, 5808 Leslie Drive, Fairfield, to discuss “Educated” a memoir by **Tara Westover**. This is an amazing story of a young Mormon girl who decided to go to college, when she had had no formal education. Join us for an interesting discussion!

OWLS

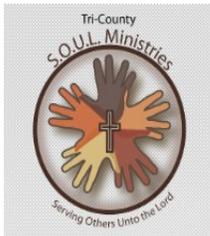


OWLS - January meeting will be Wednesday, January 16 (**note change of day**) for our delicious pot-luck luncheon at 11:30 a.m. followed by a program **HERE AT MESSIAH** given by a staff member of Artworks, telling us about the beautiful murals all over the city, including a new one in Finneytown on the front of Brentwood Bowl. There will be a \$5 admission fee to help cover the cost of this program. Please sign the list in the narthex if you're planning on coming.



- Thanks to all who served, donated food or monies for the December 12 Prince of Peace meal. Approximately 90 people were served a hot meal.
- We also took several donated coats, hats, and blankets. We will continue taking donated items all winter. Just place them in the tubs in the narthex.
- The Village of Greenhills will be planting the 6 oak trees for the 80th anniversary of the village in the spring. We will post information about this when the planting takes place.

A big thank you to all of you who contributed to the **Graceworks Lutheran Services Enhanced Living program** at the voter's meeting. **A total of \$374 was raised.**



TRI-COUNTY SOUL MINISTRIES

Thanks to the Messiah Members who contributed to the Angel Wishes program at Tri-County SOUL Ministries. We contributed over \$1000 towards the \$14,000 we needed for this year's program. We helped 39 families with various needs including: rent/mortgage, Duke, Water, Medical co-pay, dental credit card, Chromebook, tires, citizenship fee, taxes, money towards plumbing repairs and money towards furnace repair. We are so glad to be Jesus hands and feet for those in need!

Tri-County Soul Ministries is now accepting new and gently used winter clothing for the upstairs clothing ministry. We have refurbished the upstairs and are in the process of re-doing much of the downstairs (where we have the food, paper goods and toiletry items). Since we didn't raise enough money to build a new pantry we have re-designed the shopping area and the outside of the building will get a new roof and siding in the spring. Continue to bring in **HEARTY SOUPS** and **TOOTHBRUSHES**. We continue to thank God for our partner churches, like Messiah who provided us with workers during 2018 including your new rep **Diane Stephens** who has joined **Bunny Doebling** on the board. Other workers include: **Lora Budke, Stan Capal, Bill & Joan Rieger, Marsha Wingo** and **Sandy Walter**. Call **Bunny Doebling** 543-0295 if you'd like to get more involved.

Yoga — Classes Restarting January 7th

Fitness focused yoga classes led by **Susan Silver**, Yogafit~Style trained instructor. 7:00 PM Monday Nights
Classes are \$10 each — Book of 5 Classes for \$40

To All Messiah Women:



You are invited to **Barb Degenhardt's** home on **January 6, 2019** from 2:00 to 4:30 for our **4th annual Epiphany Party**. Because people are so busy with family events right before Christmas, we thought this would be a better time to have our "Ladies Night/Afternoon Out" Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share.

This is a great time to relax after all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. You will also discover the identity of your "Secret Sis". Do you want to have a "secret sister" ? (She is a woman from the church that you pray for and remember at special times

throughout the year with a card.) We will be drawing names that afternoon for those interested in having a secret sister. Whether you want to participate in the "secret sister" or not, come join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

Questions? Call Barb at 513-863-5864 or e-mail degenhardtbl@yahoo.com. See you there.



On **Sunday, January 20th** we will be attending a **Cincinnati Cyclones** game. A sign up sheet will be on the board beginning **December 23rd**. Ticket costs will be \$13.00/ea. This is a fun afternoon for families and friends. You don't have to be a hockey fan to have a great time. Come one and all to enjoy an afternoon with fellow Messiah members and friends. The fun begins at 3:05 PM. (If we get more than 20 people, the cost is reduced to \$12.00/ea)

February we will be hosting a family movie to be announced. Look for that info in January.



Choir News - Many thanks to choir members who sang throughout Advent and at the traditional Christmas Eve service. A special thanks to **Ron and Betsy Schapp** for their duet on Christmas Eve.

January brings some changes to the choir. We will continue to rehearse every Wednesday at 7 PM. We won't be singing every Sunday. This will give us more time to rehearse for the Sundays we do sing and prepare for Lent and Easter.

A special thank you to all of the children and youth who participated in the Children's Christmas Service. There will be many opportunities for them to bring their talents to our worship services in the new year.

We hope to welcome new members to the choir in the upcoming months. You need not be present for every rehearsal or sing at every service when choir sings. All ages and abilities welcome. One on one or small group practice can also be scheduled.

For more information, contact **Cathy Carson** at 513-824-1241 or cathycarson82@gmail.com

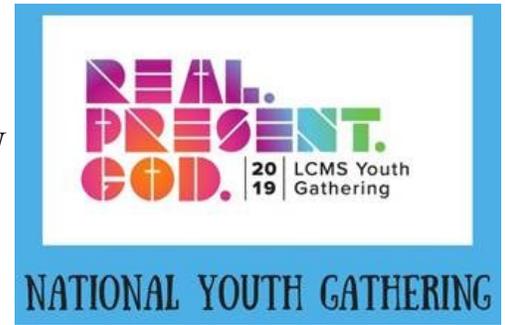


**Current 8th grade students – 12th grade students & Parents -
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!**

MEETING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 13TH AT 12 PM!

****** Final commitments and deposits will be due at the meeting. ******

The LCMS National Youth Gathering is July 11-15 in Minneapolis, MN



4th Sunday - January 27th from 12 to 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall
Contact Hailey at dce@messiahgrh.org for questions.



Cincinnati Youth Lock-in

Friday, Jan. 18th 7:00 PM – 8:00 AM

Grades 6-12

Zion Lutheran Church in Anderson Twnsp.

\$18/person – includes laser tag, pizza, & breakfast

Ohio District Junior High Gathering

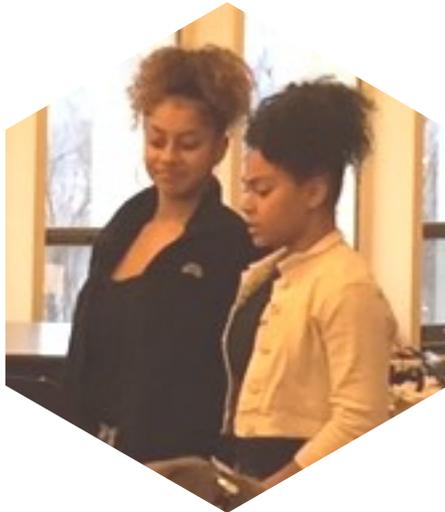


Students in 6th - 8th grade are invited to register now for the Jr. High Gathering!

The Jr. High Gathering is March 8 – 10, 2019 in Columbus, OH. Cost is \$85 for the Gathering.

Some extra money will be needed for food on travel days. Students will learn how to strengthen their faith through various activities. There will be service projects, Bible Studies, music, and a keynote speaker who will engage the kids in thinking about how to live out their faith in the world.

Registration forms will be in the office beginning January 6th.



Children's Christmas Service
on December 16, 2018





OWLS at Music Hall
Christmas Concert





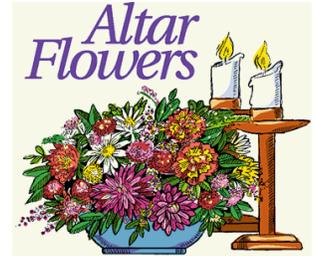
- 6 Ryan Hamilton
- 7 Cara Todd
- 8 Logan Cochran
- 8 Julie Mayer
- 8 Norah Ramahi
- 10 Craig Dumke
- 13 Elizabeth Pilsner
- 13 Jessica Pilsner
- 15 Jennifer Harrison
- 15 Peggy Lynch
- 15 Jeff Reupert
- 17 Ray Ash
- 17 Susan Bennett
- 18 Sara Butler
- 21 Caitlin James
- 21 Carolyn Priebe
- 25 Bob Tanis
- 26 Oria Daugherty
- 27 Zachary Cochran
- 27 Marilyn McEneny
- 29 David Daugherty
- 30 John Priebe
- 31 Irene Doran



January 2019



- 16 Michael and Jayme Cochran
- 24 Alan and Marsha Wingo



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers

The following families have signed up for January:
Hiler, Rice, Lois Harrison

Please remit your payment of **\$25**

to
**"MESSIAH
ALTAR
SOCIETY"**

and place in the
Altar Society mailbox
in the church office.

Thank You!

The flowers must be paid for
before the order is placed



**ARISE,
SHINE;**
FOR YOUR **LIGHT**
HAS COME,
AND THE **GLORY**
OF **THE LORD**
HAS RISEN
UPON YOU.

ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV

The 2019 Flower Chart is on the narthex bulletin board. Remember/celebrate a special occasion by signing up to provide altar flowers on a specific Sunday—many dates still available. You may take the flowers home after the 10:45 service.

**Messenger Deadline for the February
issue is
January 15.**
Send articles to messenger@MessiahGRH.org

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00pm Choir	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 5:30pm Traditional Communion
6 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Worship Service 2:00pm Ladies' Epiphany party 	7 7:00pm Yoga class	8 6:00pm New Member Information Class 7:30pm Band and Vocals	9 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	10	11	12 7:30am Elders Meeting 8:30am Leadership Board Meeting 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service
13 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 12:00pm Youth and Parents Meeting 2:30pm Book Club	14 7:00pm Yoga class	15 6:00pm New Member Information Class 7:30pm Band and Vocals	16 11:30am OWLS 7:00pm Choir	17	18 7:00pm Cincinnati Youth Lock-In	19 5:30pm Traditional Communion Worship Service
20 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Worship Service Cyclones Hockey Game	21 7:00pm Yoga class	22 6:00pm New Member Information Class 7:30pm Band and Vocals	23 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	24	25	26 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service
27 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 12:00pm 4th Sunday Youth Gathering	28 7:00pm Yoga class	29 6:00pm New Member Information Class 7:30pm Band and Vocals	30 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	31		