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### From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last year we studied the book "Joining Jesus on His Mission." One of the questions asked in the book is "how has Jesus been messing with you." We are asked to pay attention to where God is already working in your life and in the lives of others. By doing so we can connect with Jesus and His work amongst us.

Romans 10:8 says, ***"The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"*** that is, the Word of faith we are proclaiming.

The Wise Men searched for the Christ Child. Guided by the star they came to Jerusalem, announcing the nature of their quest: ***"Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."*** (Matthew 2:2) Directed to go to Bethlehem, they saw the star again, and great was their joy.

We too should search for the Christ Child. We seek Him where He is to be found – in His Word. To find Him, we need not scale the highest mountain or descend into the depth of the sea. He is much closer at hand, as St. Paul states, ***"The Word is near you ... the Word of faith we are proclaiming."***

As we enter into a new year we can go to His Word and find Jesus. Actually, Jesus finds us through the Word. When we hear the Word of God we hear Jesus and He reaches out to us and the Holy Spirit comes into us and gives us faith or strengthens existing faith.

Jesus is active all around us. We pray that, through the Word, the Spirit opens our eyes to see Him at work not only in our lives but in the lives of people around us. In faith we can join Him and by doing so this next year will truly be special.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor Stuckwisch

**The rock is often used as a symbol of the Lord, our strength and firm foundation. A cross rising from the rock echoes many Bible verses that proclaim Christ as the rock of salvation; for example, "He alone is my rock and my salvation ..." (Psalm 62:2, ESV).**





## From the Elders

### Upcoming Events

Jan 4/5 Installation of Officers  
Jan 6 Ladies Epiphany Party  
Jan 25 Fellowship Event  
Chili Cook-Off  
Feb 16 Quarterly Voters' lunch  
and meeting

***"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."*** -Malachi 3:6

. Every promise that He has made is secure and will last forever. Since we live in a world that is constantly changing, the promise of our Father's rock-solid commitment to us is very reassuring.

The changing of the calendar marks the beginning of a new year for us to be able to experience the Lord's continued faithfulness in our lives. He will never leave us or IAs we begin a brand new year, it is important for us to be reminded of this simple truth... The Lord our God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and foreveret us down. He loves us with all of His heart and each one of His promises that is true today will be true in a million years from now.

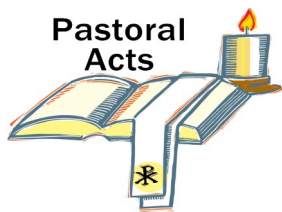
I pray that this truth will bring a deeper level of comfort and security to each one of our lives. May we look forward to all of the ways that our Father will show Himself faithful to us in this New Year. May this year truly be blessed beyond imagination for you!

The Elders continue to encourage regular participation in worship and fellowship at Messiah. When you note that one or more of our members are absent, pray that the Holy Spirit will move them to participate in worship, and then call, text, or e-mail them to let them know you miss them. Prayerfully consider offering services as an usher, reader, greeter, sound board technician, Altar society or Hospitality member. Questions? See Linda Perrmann or an Elder.

Fellowship and Fun. Watch the weekly e-news and issues of the Messenger for future activities.

The Elders,

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



We rejoice with the Edelstein family on the baptism of Zachary on December 22.





## From the Congregation President

The Leadership Board hopes you all had a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season. With the rolling of the calendar year, we welcome all the new Leadership Board, Elder and Ministry Team volunteers. A special thank-you to **Tom Mueller** (outgoing Elder), **Randy Gross** (incoming Elder), **Tina Burge** (outgoing Hospitality Leader), **Sharon Schuesler** (incoming Hospitality Leader), **Matt Beckman** (outgoing Outreach Leader) and **Jim Worachek** (incoming Outreach Leader). All leaders will be installed into their offices on the weekend of January 4/5<sup>th</sup>.

Our focus for the coming year will be taking what we learned in 2019 in regards to Joining Jesus on His Mission and make more of the missional communities we will be forming. Each of these communities will help hold ourselves accountable and sharing our own personal experiences on meeting Jesus in the community and joining Him to bring the great news He has for them. The Leadership Team understands this can be a big shift in the way we've thought about outreach and coming together as a community of believers, but don't give-up or blow this off as some temporary initiative. We need everyone to help us. Find some way to be involved and reflect on how you've already seen Jesus at work in the world around you, in your neighborhood.

We are also continuing our fellowship time with one another. The first opportunity this year will come up on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Chili-cookoff competition (we will need people to bring their own special Chili and many tasters. Everyone is invited). Following the Chili dinner, Bunco (or other Dice Games) will begin. This has been a great family activity the past number of years. No experience is needed. We've had 1 year olds participate in the past. It is sure to be a fun time by all, so consider joining us and inviting a neighbor.

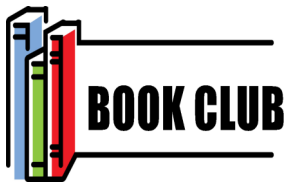
In the month of January, the Leadership Team will also revisit the budget presented to the congregation at the November Voters' Meeting. Recall there was a significant gap in the projected giving versus the anticipated expenses. We will reassess with any year-end giving and updated pledges and report back in February to finalize the 2020 budget. Thank you to all who submitted pledges, updated pledges and gave extra thank offerings to close our gap. Additionally, it appears we will have met the goal of the \$40,000 Mortgage Reduction Challenge 1 year early, based on current giving and pledges for 2020. If you made a pledge for 2020, and are able to meet the pledge early in the year, please consider doing so as this will make the largest impact, with Messiah paying more in principal vs interest throughout the remainder of the payment periods.

Thank you again for your support and prayers during the first of my two years in serving as your Congregation President.

Chris Berndt

2019 Messiah Giving and Expenses	
Nov. Income	\$ 27,844
Nov. Expenses	\$ 27,932
2019 Income	\$ 328,481
2019 Expenses	\$ 345,195

November giving nearly covered all expenses, with only a \$88 differential. We are still lagging total year to date giving, with a nearly \$16,713 deficit relative to expenses. We are currently trending a little better than last year, but still have \$16,000 cash on hand to cover monthly expenses. The mortgage reduction challenge received an additional \$1,385 in November. Thanks to all that made a special contribution the past month.



Book Club: Book Club will meet on Jan. 12, at the home of Bunny Doebling, 88 Julep Lane at 2:30 p.m. to discuss "The Girl with Seven Names" about a young defector from North Korea. Join us for a lively discussion

## OWLS



OWLS: Just a reminder that OWLS are taking a winter break and will not meet in January. Our next meeting is February 18 to hear about Princeton Closet. Details will follow next month.



Thank you to all who provided food and helped serve the December meal at Prince of Peace.

**Annual Epiphany Party — All women in the congregation are invited to our annual Epiphany party on Sunday, January 5 at Barb Degenhardt's home (3547 Lee's Ford Lane Hamilton, Ohio) from 2:00 to 4:30. Come one, come all!** Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a gift for your secret sis. Yes, you will finally find out who has been sending you all those cards in the mail signed with weird handwriting! If you did not have a secret sis last year, come pick a name for 2020 if you want to participate—we will be drawing new names. We may even try something a little bit different for the new year.

**Tri-County SOUL Ministries** – Yes we are still collecting plastic, paper or reusable bags for the pantry clients to shop with. We are also in need of coats – particularly children's winter coats. Thanks to all who donated in our Angel Wishes campaign. I will report at a later date, how we helped the clients with the donations.

**Thrivent Members** – Don't forget to call or go on-line to **direct your Choice Dollars**. Also if you have never requested a \$250 gift card for a project, see **Hailey Robertson or Bunny Doebling** about the details. It's a benefit of having a Thrivent policy – even if you don't qualify for Choice Dollars you can get 2 gift cards a year for a project you are involved in!



**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 PM** Dig out your chili recipes and compete for the best chili in our annual Chili Cook Off. Bring the family and friends to help judge the best chili and then stay and enjoy a game that will be fun for everyone. Come join an evening of fun competition by supplying your favorite chili, coming to eat and judge chili, and/or the fun competition of a dice game. Everyone is welcome





**New Year, new opportunities to serve.** Hospitality is in charge of making coffee and bringing snacks for the narthex on Sunday mornings for everyone. We all participate in this and have time to gather with others after early service and after Sunday School. A new signup sheet will be on the board in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to make coffee before early service, bring snacks or help clean up after late service. If you have any questions, please contact **Sharon Schuesler** at (513) 324-0349 or [sschuesler@outlook.com](mailto:sschuesler@outlook.com). Thank you for helping.



Pictures from the Family  
Christmas Event  
December 15

Pictures from the Progressive Dinner







More pictures from the Progressive Dinner

## From the Preschool



The Greenhills Cooperative Preschool has been enjoying the 2019-2020 school year! We hope that you are enjoying seeing our artwork and hearing the sounds of happy children in your hallways. We are so happy in our “new” home and we would love to have you come and visit us. We will be having an Open House on January 25<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested in knowing more about who we are and what we do.

Thank you for your participation in some of our fundraisers. You were all so amazing with our “butterbraid” sale. I hope that you have enjoyed the sweet treats! We are hoping to have another Butterbraid sale around Easter time, so eat up the ones that you purchased and make some room in your freezers for the spring orders.

We also carry “Buddy” cards all year. If you find that you are having company and want to order pizza from LaRosa’s just give us a call and we can hook you up with the \$10 card. It is a buy one get- one free large cheese pizza and good for 14 uses or one year from the first time you use the card. (you can always have other ingredients added, they will just charge you for the ingredients, not the pizza)

Our four year olds and Pre-K class enjoyed having Pastor Stuckwisch come down to read Christmas stories and sing songs recently. The classes also shared popcorn with Pastor Stuckwisch. I have only heard good things about that morning! The three year olds baked cookies for the office staff and sang for them also. It is so nice to have such nice relationships for the children and their families.

The families and staff want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a new year filled with blessings. You have all been such a blessing to us!!

We will be back into the swing of school on January 6<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to many more memory making activities!

With great appreciation from all of us,

**Jan Johnson**, administrator



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



16 Michael and Jayme Cochran  
 24 Alan and Marsha Wingo



A few pictures from the  
 Hanging of the Greens  
 Service at the beginning  
 of the Advent season



### Altar Flowers

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

Please remit your payment of **\$35**  
 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



Messenger Deadline for the February  
 issue is

January 15.

Send articles to [clherron1@gmail.com](mailto:clherron1@gmail.com)

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  New Year's Day	2	3	4 <b>Installation of Officers</b>  8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 5:30pm Traditional Communion Worship Service
5 <b>Installation of Officers</b>  8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service 2:30pm Ladies Epiphany Party	6 <b>Epiphany</b>  7:00pm Epiphany Communion Service at Christ Lutheran	7  7:30pm Band and Vocals	8  7:00pm Choir	9	10	11  7:30am Elders Meeting 8:30am Leadership Board Meeting 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service
12 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b>  8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 2:30pm Book Club	13	14  7:30pm Band and Vocals	15  7:00pm Choir	16	17	18  5:30pm Traditional Communion Worship Service
19  8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	20	21  7:30pm Band and Vocals	22  10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	23	24	25   5:30pm Traditional Worship Service 7:00pm Fellowship Event Chili Cook-Off and games
26  8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service	27	28  7:30pm Band and Vocals	29  10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	30	31	

