



### *In this Issue*

- Page 1 From the Pastor*
- Page 2 From the Elders*  
*Pastoral Acts*
- Page 3 From the Congregation President*  
*Holiday Schedule*
- Page 4 Within Messiah*
- Page 5 Within Messiah*
- Page 6 Pictures*
- Page 7 Birthdays & Anniversaries*
- Page 8 Calendar*



### From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Although we may have been hearing Christmas music since the end of Halloween, now that Thanksgiving is over, we are officially in the Holiday season. Thanksgiving was just a little more than a week ago and Christmas is a little more than three weeks away. During the Advent and Christmas seasons there is excitement as we think about family gatherings, Christmas parties, worship services, Christmas programs, and all that goes with it. Along with excitement, many of these same events produce stress, feeling overwhelmed, financial burdens that come from overspending, diets blown because of the holiday foods eaten. The Holiday season can also be a time of sadness because of

loved ones who are no longer with us. And so Advent and Christmas is a wonderful, hectic, joyous, depressing time of the year.

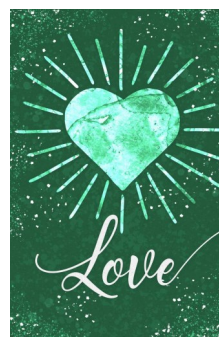
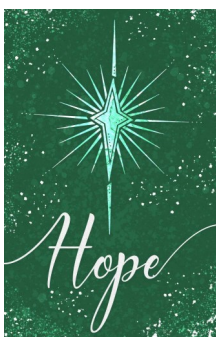
Fortunately for all who understand the true meaning of Christmas they also understand that the good news of this season is not dependent upon the feelings that we experience this time of year. The Good News of this season is that we have a Savior who came to live, die, and rise for us and for our eternal salvation. We have a Savior who is with us in the midst of our excitement. He is there for us when we are feeling overwhelmed. When we struggle with the fact that we live in a sin filled world He is there to reassure us and strengthen us. When we remember loved ones who are no longer with us, we have the comforting message of everlasting life won for us because of Jesus Christ and His unconditional love for us.

During this season enjoy your traditions, persevere through your busy schedules, and embrace your remembrances that bring sadness as well as tears of joy. Take time to worship the Christ child who is at the center of all that goes on this holiday season. See Christ in everything that this season has to offer.

The church year season of Advent prepares us for the celebration of Christmas. During Advent we will have special Advent worship services on the first three Wednesdays of December (December 6, 13, and 20). The theme for this year is **"Stop, Look, and Listen."** All of these services will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a meal prior to the service in our fellowship hall. Our Children's Christmas Worship will be at a Saturday worship service, Saturday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. Also don't forget our Christmas Eve worship with candlelight and Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. We will also have Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m. Blessings to you and your family during this time of year.

Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him.

**Pastor Allen Stuckwisch**



## Upcoming Events

Dec 2 1st Sunday of Advent  
 Dec 6 Dinner + Advent Service  
 Dec 9 Decorate church  
 / Progressive Dinner at church  
 Dec 10 2nd Sunday of Advent  
 Dec 13 Dinner + Advent Service  
 Dec 16 5:30pm Children's Christmas  
 Service + Dinner  
 Dec 17 3rd Sunday of Advent  
 Dec 20 Dinner + Advent Service  
 Dec 24 4th Sunday of Advent  
 One Service(10:00am)  
 Christmas Eve Services  
 (5pm, 7pm, 11pm)  
 Dec 25 Christmas Day Service 10:00am  
 Dec 31 One Service (10:00am)  
 New Year's Eve Service  
 (7:00pm)  
 Jan 6 Epiphany  
 Jan 7 Epiphany Party



## From the Elders

In a few days the new church year begins starting with Advent season.

The term "Advent" finds its roots in the Latin word "adventus," signifying "coming" or "arrival." This season provides a contemplative space to ponder the initial arrival of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem and to ready our hearts for His anticipated second coming in glory.

But how do we make ready?

Our traditions play a pivotal role in this preparation. The illumination of Advent candles symbolizes various facets of the season: hope, peace, joy, and love. They serve as a poignant reminder of God's promises and the imminent arrival of the Light of the World.

Mid-week Advent services offer a respite from the frenetic pace of the season, allowing us to pause and reflect on God's words and promises. Through these services, we revisit the Old Testament promises foretelling the advent of our Savior.

Daily devotions help to keep us vigilant. Jesus told us to be watchful and faithful, for we do not know the day or hour of His return. Live your life in a way that reflects your faith and hope in Christ. Share His love with others and forgive.

As we journey through Advent, let us remember the dual significance of this season: the celebration of Christ's birth and the eager anticipation of His return. May our hearts be filled with hope, our actions guided by love, and our lives transformed by the promise of His Second Coming.

Recall the words of Jesus from Matthew 24:44 (NIV): ***"So you also must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."*** With joyful anticipation, let us ready our hearts and lives for His coming return. Blessings to you all this Advent season as we eagerly prepare for the birth of our Savior and the triumphant return of our Lord.

The Elders

## Annual Progressive Holiday Dinner

**When:** December 9th

**Where:** at Messiah  
 after the 5:30  
 Saturday service  
 (about 6:30pm)

Please plan to join us for  
 a fun evening.

Sign up poster is on the  
 narthex bulletin board ==  
 cost is \$15 (catered  
 meal) — please bring  
 an appetizer or dessert  
 to share.





## From the Congregation President

We have officially reached the holiday season. Thanksgiving is behind us. Christmas and New Year's are staring us down. Are you ready? Have you finished your shopping? Have you even started? I most certainly have not. It's very easy to get lost in the busyness that can be overwhelming this time of year. We hear it all of the time, but we need to make a conscious effort to keep Christ in Christmas. Through all of the parties, shopping, get-togethers and everything else, we must remember to stay focused on Jesus Christ and the cross. Everything else is secondary.

I'll keep it short and sweet this month. The voter's meeting was held on November 19th. Thank you to all of those who came and had their voices heard. We appreciate you.

December 9th will be the Progressive Dinner. We will have our regular church service at 5:30pm and the party will start in the Narthex immediately following the conclusion of service, approximately 6:30pm. Please sign up and bring appetizers and desserts to share. From the Narthex, we will make our way to the Fellowship Hall, where we will have a catered meal and sing Christmas carols.

I wish you all a very safe and very Merry Christmas. May the good Lord continue to bless each and every one of you.

Blessings,  
Shawn Horner



### Advent Services

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**  
**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**  
**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**

### Children's Christmas Service

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM**

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM (regular worship)**

### Christmas Eve

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM (regular worship)**  
**Contemporary Candlelight Communion service 5 PM**  
**Traditional Candlelight Communion service at 7 PM**  
**Traditional Candlelight Communion service at 11 PM**

### Christmas Day

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Communion Service at 10 AM**

### New Year's Eve

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM (Service of Lessons & Carols)**  
**New Year's Eve Communion Service @ 7 PM**

**There will be NO New Year's Day Service**



Our children and youth will lead worship at 5:30 PM on December 16. There will be a soup dinner after the service. Toddlers through high school and up are welcome to participate. If you have not signed up and your children would like to participate, please contact

**Cathy Carson** at 513-824-1241  
or [cathycarson82@gmail.com](mailto:cathycarson82@gmail.com)

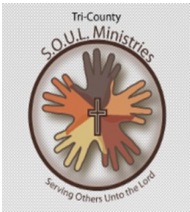


### **Church decorating**

for Christmas will be December 9 starting at 9:00a.m. Come join the fun as we prepare to celebrate the birth of

our Lord! We should be done before noon depending on how many volunteers we have. Hope to see you there!





**Tri-County SOUL Ministries** is collecting for the **Angel Wishes program** to help our Caring Center Clients with assistance at Christmas time. This year we'd like to help 38 families representing 150 people. We try to give \$100 per person towards something that the family needs. . Any amount you donate will be appreciated. Make a check out to Messiah with TCSM in the FOR line or a check directly to TCSM and put in the church office in **Bunny Doebling's** mailbox. A special thanks to all of our Messiah Volunteers – Laura Budke, Becky Coffey, Bunny Doebling, Jean Floyd, April Gottula, Joan Rieger, Barb Rottinghaus, Sandy Walter & Diane Stephens.

**Thrivent Policy Holders:** Don't forget to direct your Choice Dollars for 2023. Also if you have **any kind of policy** you are eligible to apply for a \$250 gift card for some worthy cause. If you have a question about this see **Bunny Doebling**, the rep at Messiah (513-543-0295) or call Thrivent directly (800-847-4836)



**Cookies, cookies, cookies needed!!!!** It's time to think Christmas Cookies for the Federation's Auxiliary Cookie Pack. People in nursing homes and care centers love these little boxes of treats and the Christmas Story! The Pack is **Monday, December 4 at 9:30 AM** at Christ Lutheran Church, 3301 Compton Rd. We need regular cookies by the dozens! . PLEASE NO NUTS OR BAR COOKIES. If you cannot join us the day of the pack please make some cookies at home and deliver to Messiah by December 3rd and we will take them over to Christ Church. We're hoping you can join us - ALL are welcome. Join us for this special outreach event and the fellowship.



Many thanks to everyone who shared their talents for our November voluntaries. You are appreciated!

Special Announcement: Do you have an instrument hiding in the closet? Did you sing during another season of your life? It is a blessing to have so many musical members at Messiah and we want to be sure we don't miss anyone. Besides soloists and choral ensembles, we have added a Brass Quartet to our music ministry and would like to add a Woodwind Ensemble, as well as a regular handbell group.

There are many opportunities to serve in our music ministry in December. Besides our weekend services, there are midweek Advent services and Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve services. Please contact **Cathy Carson** 513-824-1241 or cathycarson82@gmail.com if you would like to play or sing.

**Altar Society:** Thanks to everyone who showed up for our Altar Society work day on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We were able to make necessary repairs on the banners, clean and polish the pews. Thanks, ladies, for a great turn out!



The Messiah Book Club met at church on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the book, "One Italian Summer," by **Rebecca Serle**. Katie and her mother plan a trip to Italy, but before the trip takes place, Katie's mother falls ill and eventually passes away. Katie decides to take the trip by herself, leaving her grieving father and husband behind. The book was recommended by **Cathy Carson** who had read the book before her trip to the Amalfi Coast this past summer for her son's wedding. Cathy started our book discussion with tasty, Italy inspired treats and slides from Ben's wedding. Several of the slides were pictures of the Poseidon Hotel, which was featured in the book. To those of us who had never been to Italy it was especially nice to see pictures of some of the places we had read about in the book.

Book club will **not meet in December**. We will meet on **January 21<sup>st</sup>** at the home of **Jean Floyd** (7138 St. Albans Way, Liberty Twp) at 2:30 p.m. to discuss "Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters separated by China's Civil War" by **Zhuging Li**. A non-fiction account of how one sister remained in mainland China and the other one was a world away in Taiwan. The book is written by their niece. Extra copies will be located in the church office. Come join us for a lively discussion!

**Epiphany Party:** The annual Messiah Epiphany party will be held on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at the home of **Barb Degenhardt**, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. All women of the congregation are invited. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

The Epiphany party brings to the end to this Christmas season. It is a time to relax and enjoy each other's company. It is also the time to find out who your secret sis has been during 2023! If you were not involved in the Secret Sis program you are welcome to join for 2024. Please come. Signing up is not necessary.

**OWLS**



**OWLS:** Plan now to attend our next meeting on **January 16** (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday). It will be another musical program – this time about the Clooney Sisters. If you missed the program on Doris Day, be sure you don't miss this one. We meet at 12:30 p.m. for dessert (provided) and coffee, tea or water! All are welcome, this is not a private club!!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



#### Oktoberfest Community Meal – October 28

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Messiah Oktoberfest Community Meal was held on Saturday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. Entertainment was be provided by **Bob Tanis and the Mason Mediocre Band**, **The Tina Marie Dancers** and a return of the popular **Donauschwabens Dancers**. **Rick Schultz** also played recorded German tunes and there was singing and dancing by the audience.

90 meals were served. All the food was donated and all \$740 raised went to the Messiah Youth for the 2025 National Youth Gathering. There was a good turnout from the community and everyone that attended and worked on the event had a great time. A special thanks to **Leslie and Rick Schultz** for helping with this event and providing the decorations.

#### Snacks for Election Day

November 7th **Tina Burge** provided snacks for Election Day. Voters from our neighborhood enjoyed them along with coffee and tea. Tina also served a hot lunch, chicken casserole, rolls and cookies, to the five election workers.

#### Prince of Peace Wednesday night worship meals

November 15th **Jim Worachek, Pastor and Tina Burge** prepared a Thanksgiving style Turkey Dinner complete with Sides and Pumpkin Pie. The meal was served by **Rick, Sandy and Mark Walter, Holly Yeats, Pastor and De Stuckwisch, Barb and Chuck Degenhardt**. 100 people were fed a delicious Holiday meal after a devotion and singing lead by **Pastor Stuckwisch** at Prince of Peace church in Over-the-Rhine. Next dinner is **December 13** for the Prince of Peace Christmas Dinner

#### Meals on Wheels

**Jim Worachek** made meal deliveries Oct 27, Nov 16 and Nov 17 as a substitute driver. Delivery routes take about 3-4 hours and deliver Meal Packages to 12 Senior Shut-ins. Each Meal Pack provides 1 week supply of Milk, Bread, Frozen Meals and nutritious Snacks. Besides a meal delivery, Jim does a wellness check on each client.

#### Greenhills Light-up the Commons Friday December 1.

In addition to the hot chocolate that we serve every year, we've been asked to man the S'mores booth from 6-8pm. The S'mores will be provided. We are just being asked to provide 2 people each hour. Looking for 4 volunteers to take a 2-hour shift each. Need 2 more volunteers.

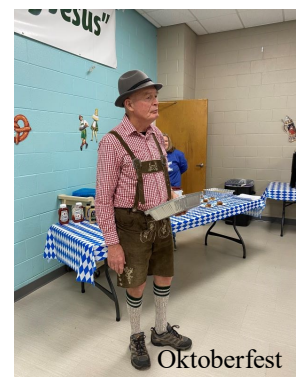
Contact **Sandy Walter** if you can help. (513)706-7102

#### PRINCE OF PEACE WINTER COAT DRIVE



We will be accepting **men, women, children coats** as we did last year. You can drop them off in the coat room. (Gently used will be fine.) There is also a **great need for adult socks, gloves and hats**.







# december 2023




2 Stan Capal  
2 Anna Rottinghaus  
4 Audrey McGuire  
6 Joseph Aurilio  
7 Anne Nolan  
7 Brian Pilsner  
10 Susan Silver  
11 Scott Schuesler  
12 Kyle Morison  
12 Judy Byers  
13 Abigail Farler  
14 Nickolas Streib  
16 Sara Daugherty  
16 Sandy Jackisch  
17 Steve Horner  
17 Matthew Beckman  
18 Christina Bow  
21 John Hiler

22 Holly Yeatts  
24 David Rottinghaus  
24 Karen Ditz  
27 Richard Rutz  
27 Matthew Budke  
28 Gail Lipps  
28 Stella Gardner  
29 Kevin Baldwin  
29 Nancy Beckman  
30 Marjorie Smith  
31 Jan Friedrich



18 Kyle and Carol Morison  
24 Adam and Jessica Gottula  
24 Mark and April Gottula



## Altar Flowers

The following families have signed up for December:

: Nolan, Rice, Hiler, Lipps, Friedrich

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



The **2024 Flower Chart** is now available on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. The cost for altar flowers remains \$35 and must be paid before the flowers are ordered. Celebrate special occasions by providing flowers for the altar.

**Messenger Deadline for the January 2024 issue is**

December 15.

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

◀ November		December 2023					January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30 pm Traditional Communion Worship Service	
3 <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	4 9:30am <b>Cookie Pack</b> at Christ Lutheran	5 7:30pm Band and Vocals	6 6:00pm Advent Dinner 7:00pm Advent Service	7	8	9 8:00am Leadership Board Meeting <b>9:00am Decorate the church</b> 5:30 pm Traditional Communion Worship Service <b>6:30pm Annual Progressive dinner</b>	
10 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	11	12 7:30pm Band and Vocals	13 Prince of Peace Dinner 6:00pm Advent Dinner 7:00pm Advent Service	14	15	16 <b>5:30 pm Children's Christmas Service</b> Dinner after the service	
17 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	18	19 7:30pm Band and Vocals	20 6:00pm Advent Dinner 7:00pm Advent Service	21	22	23 5:30 pm Traditional Communion Worship Service	
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 10:00am One Service  <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 5:00pm Contemporary Service 7:00pm Traditional Service 11:00pm Traditional Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00am Christmas Day Service	26	27	28	29	30 5:30 pm Traditional Communion Worship Service	
31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> 10:00am One Service Lessons and Carols <b>7:99pm New Year's Eve Ser- vice</b>							