



### *In this Issue*

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

THANK  
YOU  
LUNCH FOR  
VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteer  
Appreciation  
Lunch  
January 14  
After  
10:00 service  
All are welcome**



### From the Pastor

Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ,

It is hard to believe that we are at the beginning of another year. Some people approach a new year with excitement and some with trepidation. I recall a very comforting phrase – "We never know what the future holds but we do know Who holds the future." Whatever may be ahead of us always remember that God holds the future in His hands and goes with us wherever we go. Scripture assures us that God is always there for us.

Auld Lang Syne is the traditional song sung on New Year's Eve. As 2023 ended some of us may have even sung the song. The song is based loosely on a poem written by Robert Burns. The ballad "Old Long Syne" printed in 1711 by James Watson shows considerable similarity and they both borrowed from earlier writers. The full song is:

**Should Old Acquaintance be forgot and never thought upon  
The flames of Love extinguished, and fully past and gone:  
Is thy sweet Heart now grown so cold, that loving Breast of thine;  
That thou canst never once reflect On old long syne  
Chorus:  
On old long syne my Jo, On old long syne,  
That thou canst never once reflect, On old long syne.**

The song begins by posing a rhetorical question as to whether it is right that old times be forgotten, and is generally interpreted as a call to remember long-standing friendships.

Coming to the end of a year, and beginning a new one, we certainly reflect on past relationships while, at the same time, look forward to a new year with new experiences had and new relationships made. We want next year to be better than this past year. In an effort to make that happen we make resolutions. Maybe it involves our relationship with our loved ones. Maybe it is work related. Many times it involves the care of our own bodies. It is good for us to make an evaluation of how this past year has gone and strive to improve in the year to come.

Messiah Lutheran is in the process of establishing goals and plans for the future. These plans will succeed only if we put God first in everything that we do. This is certainly a recipe for success in our church life as well as in our personal lives.

Blessings to you and your family throughout this New Year.

**Pastor Allen Stuckwisch**

## Upcoming Events

Jan 6 Epiphany  
Jan 7 Epiphany Party  
Jan 14 One Service at 10:00am  
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch  
Jan 16 OWLS  
Feb 6 Clifton Clef Music Club  
Feb 15 Ash Wednesday  
Lenten Dinner



## From the Elders

What to think of Jesus, particularly at this time of the year? Mary and Joseph certainly had a lot to consider, not only with the upcoming birth, but as they saw Jesus grow. What did these promises and prophecies really mean, and how was that to impact a simple Jewish family? The shepherds probably had it easiest. An overwhelming angelic display compelling them to go to Bethlehem, but what was God about to do, and how would it affect them? The magi may have had the most time to consider the event, possibly knowing something about the Hebrew God through the history of Daniel, and for sure Herod and the people of Jerusalem were “disturbed” (Mt 2:3). These weren’t just three old rich guys coming to town; likely they had a huge entourage accompanying them. No way would they escape notice.

And what about you and me, what both in this season and in the day to day, what are we to do with and think of Jesus? Perhaps for us, it’s more like it was in the day to day for Mary and Joseph. We learn more and more about Jesus if and as we allow him further into more elements of our lives.

***Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb 12:1-2***

What am I doing to cooperate with Jesus in “perfecting” my faith?



Clifton Clef Music

### *Music at Messiah:*

*The Clifton-Clef Music Club will  
meet at Messiah on*

*Tuesday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m.*

*Come hear a concert by our own great  
musicians – Cathy Carson & Sharon*

*Schmetzer.*

*Plan now to attend!*

**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.



## From the Congregation President

Happy New Year! I don't know how long we're supposed to greet each other with that or, more importantly, when we're supposed to stop. Since I'm writing this article in December I'm good either way. 2023 came and went incredibly quickly. A lot of good, a lot of rough patches, a lot of indifference. Focus on the good from God and the rest will sort itself out.

We will be having our 2nd annual Volunteer Appreciation Meal on Sunday, January 14th following the church service. If you have volunteered for ANYTHING over the course of 2023, please come and be celebrated. If you have not volunteered for anything in 2023, please come and celebrate those who have. Regardless, come and enjoy the fellowship of our Messiah family. This meal is being put on by the Leadership Board. We will not accept any help or food or donations or anything else from the congregation, at large. This is our way of saying thank you for everything that you have done.

The Ministry Clarity team has not met since September. We will be meeting again shortly. When there are updates to give, I will be sure to provide them.

I hope everybody had a safe and joyous 2023. Here's to an even better 2024!

Blessings,

**Shawn Horner**

*Thanks  
Many Thanks  
Thanks  
Thanks  
Thanks*

Thanks to all who help each week with the service — greeters, ushers, communion assistants, altar society, AV and soundboard for streaming, hospitality (those yummy snacks and coffee)

Thank you to all who help with our children's ministry

Thank you to all the staff, Elders, Leadership Board for all you do to help this facility run smoothly.

Thank you to all for being members of this Messiah family

Thank you for the donation of Thrivent Action Team cards for various projects and activities throughout the year.

Thank you to all the youth and children (and their parents) for a wonderful service on December 16th. Thanks to all who joined us for the service and the dinner afterwards.

Thanks for all the wonderful Christmas decorations and to everyone who helped decorate the church for the holiday season. Thank you to those who donate the weekly altar flowers.

Thanks to the Ladies' Bible Study, Jim's Bible Class, Pastor and the Elders for hosting the Advent dinners. All of us enjoyed the soups and salads.

Thank you to all who donated to the Angel Wishes Campaign

A big thank you to all the musicians and singers who helped bless our holiday worship.



**Book Club:** We will meet on January 21 at the home of **Jean Floyd**, 7138 St. Albans Way, Liberty Twp. At 2:30pm to discuss “Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters separated by China’s Civil War” by **Zhuging Li**. This non-fiction account of how one sister remained in mainland China and the other one was a world away in Taiwan. Extra copies will be in the church office. Come join our lively discussion!

#### 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.



**Blanket Brigade:** The flannel material is in the office on the back counter. Take what you can use and return by April 1. The finished blankets should be 32x32 inches. We responsible for 60 blankets. Any questions, please contact Bunny Doebling.



**Eyeglass Donations:** A total of 35 eyeglasses/sunglasses were shipped to MOST Ministries. MOST Ministries provides glasses to third world countries. Thank you for helping. Thanks. **Judy Stroeh**



#### 2024 Outreach Calendar

Jan 31	Prince of Peace Dinner
Mar 13	Prince of Peace Dinner
May	Greenhills Coop Preschool Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
Jun 12	Prince of Peace Dinner
July 17	Prince of Peace Cookout Dinner
Sept 11	Prince of Peace Dinner
Oct	Greenhills HarvestFest
Oct	Messiah Oktoberfest Community Meal
Oct 23	Prince of Peace Oktoberfest Style Dinner
Nov 20	Prince of Peace Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec	Greenhills Light-up the Commons
Dec 11	Prince of Peace Dinner

December 13th. The Prince of Peace Meal was a Ham Dinner prepared by **Joan Rieger**. The meal was served by **Sandy, Rick and Mark Walter, Barb and Chuck Degenhardt, Holly Yeats and Jim Worachek**. After a short Advent Devotion, 80 delicious meals were served to the homeless in Over the Rhine in the warm basement of the Prince of Peace Church on a cold night. **Barb Degenhardt** also prepared and handed out gift bags including warm socks and gloves that were funded by a Thrivent Action Team card donated by **Bunny Doebling**.

December 15th. **Jim Worachek** delivered 12 Meals to senior shut-ins as part of the Meals on Wheels "Christmas Meal Deliveries for Seniors" program. Jim is also scheduled to deliver meals on December 18th and 21st.

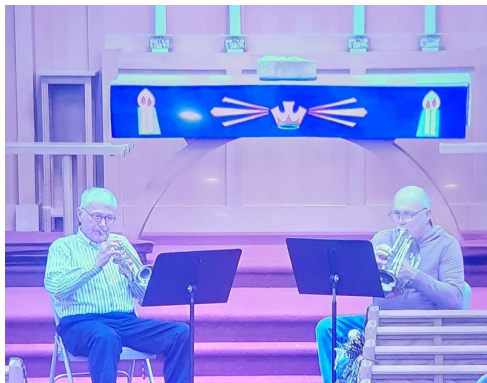
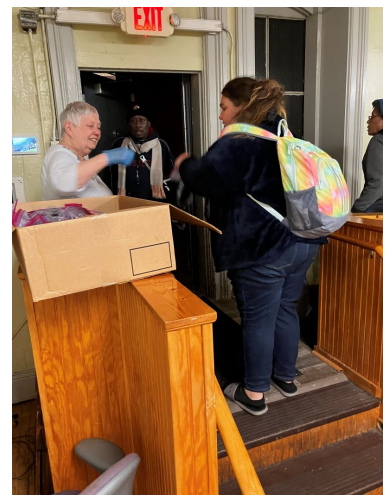
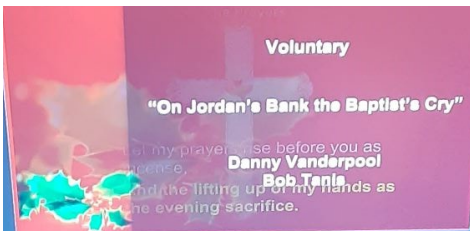


**Music at Messiah:** The Clifton-Clef Music Club will meet at Messiah on Tuesday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m. to hear a concert by our own great musicians – **Cathy Carson & Sharon Schmetzer**. Plan now to attend!





Prince of Peace Christmas Dinner

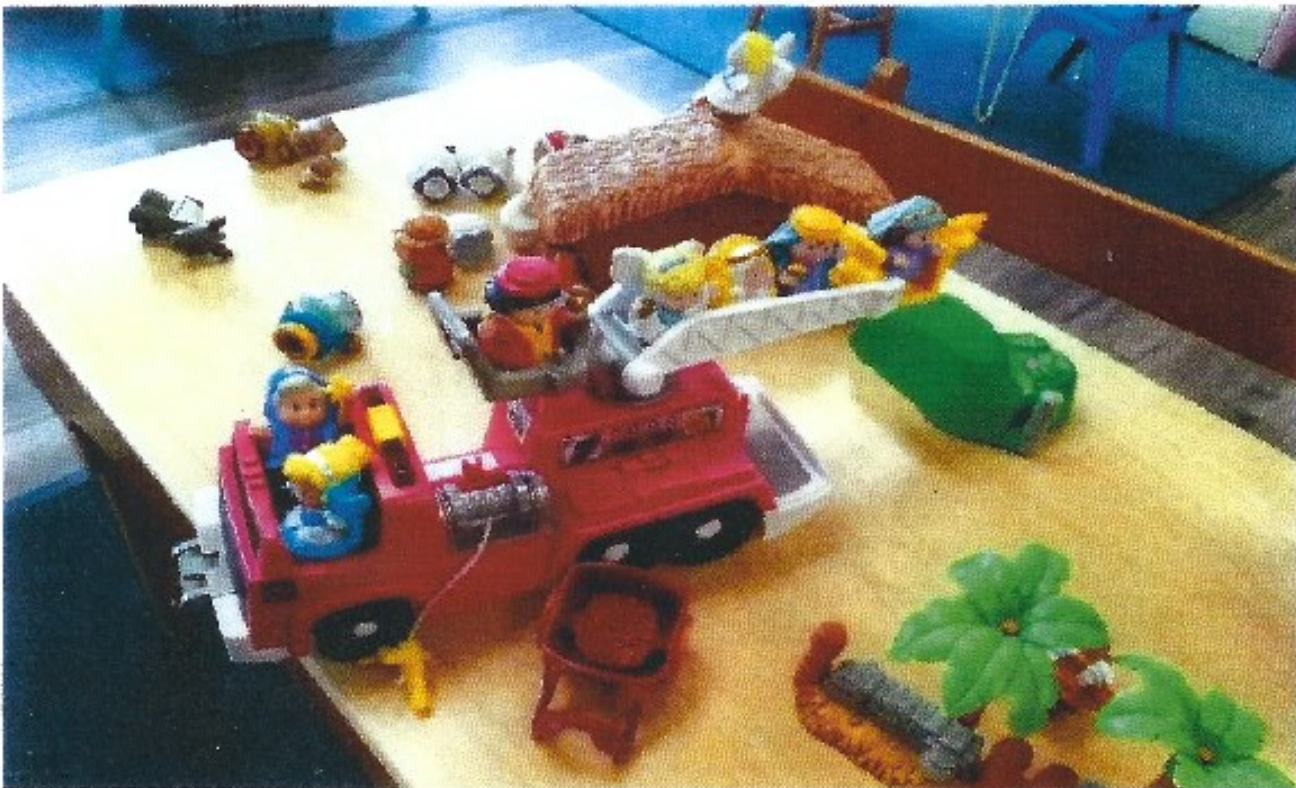






And low, a fairy godmother appeared to Cinderella and said,

"Behold! I bring you glad tidings. A Savior will be born in Bethlehem, so grab the biggest vehicle you can find and give this poor mother a ride. No one wants to ride a donkey when you're 9 months pregnant. Pick up anybody you pass along the way, be they wise men or shepherds. We're going to throw this child a party fit For a King!"



Background: So apparently this is the new "in Style" way to set up the nativity scene these days. One of the kids at school was playing with the Fisher Price nativity scene combined with the Fisher Price Cinderella carriage people and this is what we found later in the day. Cinderella and the Fairy godmother we're driving a fire truck with all the Nativity characters lined up on the fire truck ladder headed towards the manger. You can always use a new perspective on the First Christmas story. Lol

Jeanne Stevens (Parent of several students)





# January

2024

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



16 Michael and Jaime Cochran



## Altar Flowers

The following families have signed up for January  
**Schultz, Hiler and Rice**

Please remit your payment of **\$40**  
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




Many dates are available for altar flowers for 2024. Sign-up poster (on the bulletin board across from the stairs) is now available to put your name down for altar flowers during the year. **The cost is now \$40 per arrangement** — which needs to

be paid before the flowers are ordered.  
**Thank you** to everyone who has made our altar so beautiful with floral arrangements in the past year.

Messenger Deadline for the February  
issue is  
January 15.

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

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30pm Band and Vocals	3 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study	4	5	6 <b>Epiphany of our Lord</b>  8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast <b>5:30pm</b> Traditional Communion Service
7 <b>Baptism of our Lord</b> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service 2:00pm Ladies Epiphany/ Secret Sis Party	8	9 7:30pm Band and Vocals	10 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study	11	12	13 9:00am Leadership Board <b>5:30pm</b> Traditional Communion Service
14 <b>Installation of Officers</b> 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am One Service 11:45am Volunteer Appreciation Lunch	15	16 12:30pm OWLS 7:30pm Band and Vocals	17 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study	18	19	20 <b>5:30pm</b> Traditional Communion Service
21 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service 2:30pm Book Club	22	23 7:30pm Band and Vocals	24 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study	25	26	27 <b>5:30pm</b> Traditional Communion Service
28 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Service	29	30 7:30pm Band and Vocals	31 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study			

