



# THE LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

*Note: As I was feverishly preparing for my trip to Uganda I realized that the December Newsletter deadline would not wait for my return. I therefore commend to you an article I wrote in 2002. Though the context is dated, the message is not. The light still shines in the darkness. Invite your friends and neighbors to our Christmas Eve candlelight service. Have a blessed Christmas. I'll be back in plenty of time to celebrate with you. Pastor Huebel*

Mark Lowry, a theater critic writing for the Ft. Worth Star Telegram recently criticized the Radio City Christmas Spectacular because it supposedly imposed a Christian message (the Christmas story) upon an unsuspecting audience. Fortunately the reactions to Lowry's foolish comments were very strong, but the review indicates that antagonism to the Gospel is growing today in our land.

When God entered into the world through the womb of Mary, He was immediately

persecuted by the devil (Rev. 12) using a king (Matthew 2) and then others (John 8). The devil and the world have not changed. The Light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness still seeks in vain to extinguish it. This strong antagonism to Christ and the Gospel is very strange, because those who oppose Christ are really only sowing the seeds to their own destruction. The Christmas Gospel is truly the one and only bright hope in this world of darkness and death.

Christmas is not merely the celebration of a birthday. Christmas is the celebration of a miracle. The eternal God came down from heaven to live and dwell among us in the flesh (John 1:14). All the church fathers stand in awe and reverence before this miracle of incarnation. Church father, Origin, wrote:

*Of all miracles this one completely surpasses human understanding, nor does the weakness of mortal reason discover how it can either believe or understand how the Logos, the Power and the Wisdom of God, by whom all things were created, can be believed to be circumscribed within this man who appeared in Judea, or how the Wisdom of God was willing to enter the womb of a woman, or to be born as a little child and to utter the cries of a baby.*

Perhaps greater than the miracle of the incarnation itself is the purpose for His coming into the world. Why did the Son of God become the Son of Man? The

*(Continued on page 2)*



Detail: Nicolas Poussin. *Adoration of the Shepherds*. 1633. Oil on canvas. National Gallery, London, UK.

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

## Light Shines in Darkness, cont.

Nicene Creed says that "He came down from heaven for us men and for our salvation." Jesus' conception was an invasion of love. God did not will the sinner to die, but to live. Jesus came into the world to set the prisoners free from bondage to Satan and death. He came to reconcile sinful man with the holy God. He took a human nature in order to be our Mediator. Church father, Cyril, wrote:

*He is the Mediator between God and men, not only because He reconciled men to God but also because by nature and by substance He is God and man in one person. For that which as an intermediary joins two things is touched by each, and in this way different things are*

*joined together by an intermediary. Thus Christ is the Mediator of God and man because in the same single person God and man are joined together. And since He is joined to us by nature, our nature is joined to Him, to the divine substance, and thus we are in communion with the divine nature.*

Through the incarnation of Jesus we have been restored to God. Now we have a living hope. Sin and death no longer have dominion over us. We are children of God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. It is only through Christ that we can be delivered from darkness and death.

Let the world despise this message. Let the world shut its ears and rail against it. We know what it means. The Christmas Gospel brings light and joy and peace to every lowly sinner who desires the mercy of God. JOY to the world, the Lord has come!

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Huebel



Friday,  
December 10, 2010  
at 7:00 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church  
1308 Whitley Road  
Keller, TX 76248

817.431.5486 (School Office)  
817.431.2345 (Church Office)

[www.mlcateexas.org](http://www.mlcateexas.org)

The Second through Sixth Grade Students  
of Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy  
Present

*Vivaldi's*  
**Gloria**  
*for Young Voices*

also featuring our 8th grade string students

The background of the poster is a religious painting depicting the Nativity scene. In the center, a large angel with wings and a halo stands on a cloud, surrounded by other angels. Below, shepherds are shown with their flocks of sheep. The scene is set in a dark, rocky landscape with a bright light source in the upper left corner.



# How to Escape the Christmas Madness, by Pastor Hans Fiene

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*Advent is not pre-Christmas, you have been told. Advent is not a series of mini-celebrations of Christ's birth. It is a season where we focus on repenting of our sins and on waiting for the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory and the Babe of Bethlehem.*

That is, of course, all true. But let's face it: sometimes it's really hard to celebrate Advent the way you ought to when the demands of celebrating Christmas, both the true version and the secular version, are weighing you down. With parties and presents, candles and credit breathing down your neck from the moment Thanksgiving ends, it's not always easy to have the proper Advent frame of mind.

But Christ wasn't born of Mary to burden you with more stress than you already have. He was born of the Virgin so that He might carry all your burdens to the cross. The Word of God didn't become flesh to add more guilt to an already guilt-ridden season. He became flesh to take away your guilt by forgiving your sins through the shedding of His blood. And because the Jesus Christ at the heart of Christmas is also at the heart of the Advent season, His

mercy and forgiveness always can and always will give comfort to those who hear His Word during the time of the Church year when we prepare for His arrival.

So if you find yourself overwhelmed on the First Sunday of Advent, unable to focus because you only managed to check off 50 percent of your door-buster Black Friday gift list, pause for a moment. Take a deep breath. Listen to the Gospel reading about Christ's triumphal entry. Listen to God's Word tell you about His Son arriving in Jerusalem as your king, as the One who now rules you in mercy and love through His Word and Sacraments.

This is the Jesus who did more than stand in a crowded line at four in the morning to give you His gifts. This is the Jesus who won the gifts of eternal life and salvation for you through His death on the cross and who now pours them out upon you in the waters of Baptism, in His body and His blood, and in the preached Word. So, on the first Sunday of Advent, when you need to step outside of the Christmas madness, take a moment to hear of Jesus Christ, who is with you now.

If you find yourself stressed out beyond belief on the Second Sunday of Advent, incapable of paying attention because you haven't finished your daughter's snowflake costume for her school's Christmas concert, or rather "Winter Extravaganza," relax. Listen to the Gospel reading about John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord.

Listen to God's Word tell you about the One holding the winnowing fork. This is the Jesus who has done more for your daughter than completing her concert costume. This is the Je-

sus who will come again in glory to gather your daughter, you, John the Baptist, and all believers to His side on the Last Day. So, on the Second Sunday of Advent, when you need a break from the Yuletide overload, take a moment to hear of Jesus Christ, the One who will call you worthy of eternal life on the Day of Judgment.

If you look down at your fingers on the Third Sunday of Advent and find you've bitten your nails down to the quick because the Christmas bonus that you have depended on for the last five years to buy your wife's present is going to be one-fifth its normal size, be calm. Listen to the Gospel reading about John in prison. Listen to God's Word tell you about the One who will give sight to the blind, life to the dead, and good news to the poor.

This is the Jesus whom God promised would be your Savior, regardless of your paycheck's size. This is the Jesus whom John the Baptist identified as the Redeemer of both rich and poor alike. So, on the Third Sunday of Advent, when you need to wake up from your Nativity nightmare, take a moment to hear of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who is coming soon.

And if you find that, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, your head won't stop spinning about how you are going to pick up your parents from the airport, finish wrapping everyone's presents, walk the dog, and get everyone dressed before 7 p.m. on December 24, inhale. Exhale.

Listen to the Gospel reading about the angel's proclamation of the Christ Child inside the womb of

*(Continued on page 4)*

## How to Escape the Christmas Madness, cont.

Mary. Listen to God's Word tell you about Immanuel, God with us, who will soon be here to carry your burdens and those of all mankind.

So, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, when you want to find relief from a season that has buried you in an endless pile of guilt and worry, take a moment to hear of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born to take your guilt and worry from you.

Advent is not pre-Christmas. It is not

a series of mini-celebrations of Christ's birth. But Advent is a season of hope, a season rooted in waiting for the arrival of Christ's mercy. And so, whenever the demands of preparing for Christmas weigh you down and wear you out, Advent is always there to build you up by showing you the love of the Savior for whom you wait. Whenever the stress of celebrating our Lord's birth fills you with sin and shame, Advent will never fail to give you the forgiveness of Christ, whose birth we

joyfully prepare to celebrate.

**About the Author:** Rev. Hans Fiene is pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo.

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Since the Witness printing, Pastor Fiene has accepted a call to River of Life Lutheran Church in Channahon, IL. He will be preaching here at Messiah on Dec. 12, and installed at River of Life on Dec. 18.

Join us here for Advent midweek services at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8 and 15, as we look at *Mary, the Humble Servant of God*. The service is preceded by a 6:00 p.m. supper hosted by our youth group for a free-will offering.



### The Messiah Evangelist: *The Name Above All Names*

The genealogy of our Lord is filled with names, many difficult to

pronounce. God placed this bloodline description into Matthew 1 to prove that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the promised and chosen Savior. The Messiah must be of the house of David, the tribe of Judah, and the seed of Abraham. All of the names are given in three groups of fourteen and they were selected as part of the eternal plan of God at the fullness of the time Jesus would be born to Mary of Bethlehem.

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah*

*the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,<sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.*

*And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and*

*Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.*

*And after the deportation to Babylon Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.*

(Continued on page 5)

## *The Name Above All Names, cont.*

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*So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. (Matt 1:1-17)*

All of these people are written in the bible to show the bloodline. The ancestors included sinners of all descriptions. Our names are written in God's Book of Life which makes us citizens of His kingdom and certain of our salvation. Reading all of the names, some unknown, should assure us that whoever comes to Jesus, the Savior, will not be cast out. *I will never blot out his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels (Revelation 3:5).* No one who reads the Gospel should question whether God loves him. God does love us and He includes us in His gracious plan of salvation. That salvation is brought to us through Jesus whom there is none other to compare nor shall there be. His origin is in God and therefore his unique name of Immanuel; "God with us". Jesus was to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) if he were to be the Savior of the world. If conceived in a natural manner he would have been born in sin. But the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and therefore that child born of her is God of very God and He fulfilled the Law of God in every detail. This He did for us who are born in sin, who have sin transmitted to us from our fathers from generation to generation. Only if Jesus is born without sin of the Virgin Mary can He be our Savior. A sinful man cannot even redeem himself, much less his brother. David was willing and ready to die for his son Absalom but this would not redeem him because David was conceived and born in sin.

And now we have the miracle of miracles. Modern thought rejects the biblical truths but believers realize there is no salvation unless we have a sinless Savior who is perfect in His holiness. The bloodline description in the first half of Matthew 1 leads to the birth of our Lord.

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (Matt 1:18-25)*

God gave to the Babe of Bethlehem the name Jesus. Jesus is Greek for Joshua, "the Lord saves." Joshua of old led Israel out of the wilderness into the promised land of Canaan. The Joshua-Jesus of Bethlehem, the Christ, delivers us from the slavery of sin and leads us into the heavenly Canaan where we have peace and eternal salvation. He is called Jesus because He saves us from our sin. This he did on Calvary, where he shed his blood for

the whole human race. Jesus is the Savior, my Savior, who has taken upon himself my sins, no matter what they may be, and paid for them with His own blood.

Jesus could be wounded for my transgressions and heal me from my iniquities only because He is the Christ, the chosen of God, His only Son. He was set aside in the eternal counsel of God to come to the rescue of man. Because He is Christ, He is God made flesh.

Although He is God from all eternity, nevertheless He is my Friend, who loves with an undying love. Daily He walks with me, guides me, protects me. Because of His great love, no one will pluck me out of my Father's hand. In Christ's friendship, I find joy and a richer and fuller life. I can go in and out through prayer and know He will not turn away from me. When every other helper fails, even when I pass through death's valley, He is with me to lead me to glory, where He is King forever and ever.

Heavenly Father, grant me the grace to abide in the sacred wounds of my Savior and find forgiveness, peace, hope, and eternal life in Him who was made flesh to seek and to save the lost, the straying, and the erring. Draw me day after day with Your secure love and keep me steadfast in the faith. Let sinner and saint, young and old, rich and poor, find Jesus Christ their all in all.

Amen!

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*Paul Kohlmeier  
Board of Evangelism*



*A Ministry of Prison Fellowship*

This Christmas, 1.7 million children will spend the holiday missing a parent that is in prison. Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, seeks to reconcile prisoners and their families to God and to each other through the delivery of Christmas gifts and the Gospel message.

Messiah has teamed with the Angel Tree program share the Good News for the past few years. Will you help us "Deliver Love" to children of prisoners this Christmas?

## Angel Tree 2010

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Join us in the Angel Tree program as we help prisoners give gifts to their children, along with reassurance of their love and God's love. Here is all you need to do:

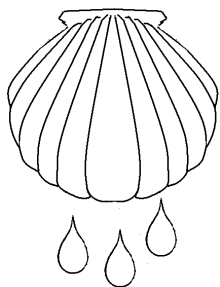
1. Please pick an Angel off of the tree in the narthex. Let Barbara Brewer know that you have taken one or more so she can keep track.
2. Purchase gifts for your angels and returned those wrapped by Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. We will add in a message and a story book from CPH to insure the story of Jesus is told.
4. Know that you have just made a big difference in a child's life

that does not have one or both parents with them this Christmas and that you just spread the news of Jesus.

5. Pray that Christ can be a part of your angel's life and that the Holy Spirit continues to move you to continue to spread the word.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry of compassion and reaching out to these families with the love of Jesus Christ!

Barbara Brewer,  
Angel Tree Coordinator  
Paul Kohlmeier,  
Board of Evangelism



Christmas decorations always come out too early for me.

Hardware and retail stores stock the shelves with decorations in October. Outdoor lights and even some indoor trees were up before Thanksgiving. What is the big hurry and why does the Church insist that we shouldn't, and actually can't, simply jump into Christmas early like the marketing world does earlier every year? Why does she instead inaugurate a season of repentance focusing on watchfulness in prayer, almsgiving, and fasting all the while inviting more attention to hearing the Word and receiving the Eucharist?

Why make Advent such a somber, serious tone? We should

## The Water of Life: *Savior of the Nations Come*

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ask in prayer that our Lord stir up His power and come and save us from the threatening perils of our sin. You see, we need Advent because we forget that our sins are threatening and perilous. We forget that the only joy possible in this age is repentant joy.

In a hymn translated by Martin Luther from the text of Ambrose of Milan came what we know now as "Savior of the Nations Come" LSB 332.

***Savior of the Nations Come  
Virgin's Son, make here  
your home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth  
That the Lord chose such a birth***

The entire hymn sums the season

clearly. And all of the church seasons create a beautiful way to remember bible stories and the cycle the church puts us in to absorb biblical teachings and celebrate Christ's life. I am one Lutheran which pushes off on Christmas because I want the Advent season to be taken seriously and to be the way we continually live our lives. Not a date to be pushed aside for the really big day but a season which should be a penitent lifestyle.

Each season of penitence observed in the Church has one goal in mind: to make you discontent with your life as it is now. To show you that there is so much more that your life can be in Christ. To stir up

*(Continued on page 7)*

## *Savior of the Nations Come, cont.*

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a hunger and thirst for change. A deep change inside of you. Instead of settling for what always has been, the Church wants to entice you by the Holy Spirit's power to dream for, reach for, and hope for what may yet come to be.

Time to be rid of works of darkness. You know what they are. You have only to think about the things you do that you want no one to see, that you want covered in darkness. You have only to think of the things you think, that you want never to be exposed to the light of day. You have only to think of the things you want, that you hope no one ever knows were the objects of your desire. These are the works of darkness that St. Paul urges us all to cast off – dumping them from our lives and instead moving into the realm of the daytime of Christ's light. The key is always to put on Christ and to make no provision for the flesh to scratch its various itches.

Hence, a time of prayer, a time of fasting, a time of almsgiving – all three disciplines are gifts of the Spirit to crucify the flesh with its constant demands of putting itself first. Advent comes as liberation from servitude to the old Adam; it comes as a gift of the Spirit who can enable us to live in Christ, to live as new men and women. No longer slaves, but free. But how can it happen? We've tried the path of will power. We know how far we get when we try on our own.

The Church sets a mystery before

us today. She shows us Jesus, entering into Jerusalem as King, riding on a donkey. Do you see it? What you can never do to tame the beast that is your flesh, He can and does do. He rides the beast and even the one never ridden, and it does His bidding. It carries Him in to His City where He will not only be greeted as King, but where He will give His life as the ransom that will set all people free. What we can never do in the conquering of our own flesh, Jesus Christ can do. He who always prayed "Thy will be done" even when that will brought Him to Jerusalem to die as King upon a cross – He can do inside of you what you could never do on your own. He can tame your flesh and make it Christ-bearing.

The first Palm Sunday they greeted Him as He rode into town, and as they sang their songs of praise to Him, they most likely had it all wrong about what He was coming to do. They were thinking that freedom from the Romans would be pretty nice. He was thinking all along that freedom from their sin would be even better. And that's why the throne of King Jesus ended up being made of wood – a cross; His crown made of thorns; His life yielded as the sacrifice that atoned for the sin of the world. The enemies He came to defeat were far larger than anything His people imagined.

Why Advent? Because the only life worth living is the life where Christ rides the donkey – the life where He controls our flesh and so

sets us free from being slaves to our own appetites and desires. The donkey isn't bad; it just needs someone to be its master. And He has come to be that. He is born in Bethlehem, laid in the donkey's crib, to be the bread of life for the world. We need Him, for He alone can bring us forgiveness for all our sins of yielding to the flesh. He alone can wipe them out and break the chains that hold us in bondage. He alone can tame the donkey that is our flesh and bring it into subjection to the will of His Father. And each Advent the Church proclaims not only that He can do this, but that He wills to do this for us.

As He comes to us anew in the Holy Sacrament, let us cry out to Him in joy the ancient song: "Hosanna!" That is, "Save us now, O Lord! Save us from our bondage to the flesh! Save us and be Yourself our Righteousness and to You alone with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit be all the glory, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages!"

*Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.*

Amen!

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*Paul Kohlmeier*  
*Board of Evangelism*



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# Calling All Youth!



The Youth Group has several events scheduled in December:

Our **service projects** for this month include the Peace Riders' Toy Drive for the Nelson Center, Braille and the Angel Tree. We could REALLY use your help and we will have FUN too!

## **Peace Riders' Toy Drive for the Nelson Center:**

We are asking our youth to collect toys (see list\*) for the children at the Nelson Center from church members, friends, and family. Youth: We can make a huge difference for these underprivileged children! Bring the unwrapped donations to the church.

We also need your help on **Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nelson Center Toy Run when the Peace Riders Motorcycle Group will meet at Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Colleyville and transport all of the collected toys to Denton (Nelson Center). Mr. Brashear is asking the Youth to help with traffic control. More directions to come...See Mark or Kathy Blaschke for details.

## **Braille/Angel Tree:**

The Youth are scheduled to work in the Braille Center on the second Sunday of every month. This

month's date is **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will also help Mrs. Barbara Brewer with the Angel Tree gifts...sorting and preparing them for delivery to the families. We may also have the opportunity to deliver some of the gifts. This is a VERY rewarding experience! Please consider spending your afternoon from 2:00-4:00 with us! We will share the work between the Braille Center and the Angel Tree...and top it all off with ice cream sundaes! The Blaschke's and the Solomon's are sponsoring this event at the Activities Center.



## **December's Fellowship Activity:**

Whether you feel like skating or shopping, we will visit the

**Galleria, Dallas on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**! We will leave the church at 5:30pm and arrive back around 10:00pm. **If you want to go, email Pastor Huebel at [pastorhuebel@messiahkeller.org](mailto:pastorhuebel@messiahkeller.org)**

## **\* Peace Riders' Toy List**

### **Gifts for Girls:**

- Scrapbooks & accessories (paper, stickers, page protectors)
- Hair straighteners, bristle brushes, small rubber bands, hair care products
- Bath & Body Works products, face wash
- Jewelry-making kits, (bracelets, rings, etc. – no metal clasps or necklaces)
- Fashion magazines, teen books
- "Diva Dogs"

### **Gifts for Boys:**

- Axe Body Wash and deodorant (no aerosol cans!)
- Anything remote-controlled (with batteries!)
- Actions figures, Lego's, Bionicles, K'Nex, Superhero temporary tattoos
- Sports trading cards, YuGiOh cards

### **Gifts for anyone/whole group:**

- Sports equipment, Frisbees, bouncy balls, Nerf footballs, soft sport balls
- Notepads, journals (without spiral wire)
- Puzzles, board games, card games
- Chapstick, stress balls
- Kid-appropriate magazines, books for K-9<sup>th</sup>, posters
- Snacks (Little Debbie's, small cookies, chips, candy)
- Devotional and Bible story books (ages 11-16)
- Religiously-themed coloring books, puzzles, crafts, games for younger children
- Arts & Crafts supplies (markers, crayons-without scissors or sharp edges)
- Gaming systems (any kind, used or new) and games
- G and PG-rated movies (DVD's)
- Bean bag chairs, floor rugs
- Gift cards: WalMart, JC Penneys, bowling, movies

## **Please join us!**

**Thank you for your help with the Keller Community Storehouse can drive! We also earned \$610.00 with our Butterbraid fundraiser!**



Mark your calendars to join us for an evening of **Family Christmas caroling** on Monday, December 20, at 6:05pm.



# Scrip Order Form

Have you ever wondered how you could help out our schools, but don't have extra time or money? Our Scrip fundraising program is the solution to your dilemma!

## THE BASICS

- You need a gift card, but instead of driving to a store to get it, you purchase the card from school. (Perhaps you have seen the Scrip table set up on Sunday mornings by the Fellowship Hall.)
- The cards are already pre-loaded. (No hassle!)
- You get what you pay for. If you give the school \$25, you get a \$25 gift card. (No extra cost to you!)
- You don't need to make an extra trip to pick up the gift card, because you are already here. (Saves you driving time!)
- There are a wide variety of choices. Check out [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) to view them all. If you set up an account online, you will need our school's enrollment code - 149CC2CD3961.
- Payment can be made at school by cash or check payable to MPC (Messiah Parent Council). If you do set up an online account, you can pay by debit card online for a small fee.
- Some cards are already here in our inventory, and you can take them right away.
- If what you need is not in our inventory, an order will be placed this Monday, December 6, and it will arrive at school by Thursday, December 9.
- Want to get something for a church staff member, but not sure what to get? No problem! All staff members have an account set up that you can contribute to as a gift. Then they can spend money in their account how they wish.
- Finally, you are not alone! Questions - call Amy Hedman - 817-767-2226 or email at [hedmana@hotmail.com](mailto:hedmana@hotmail.com).
- Happy Shopping!

Please remove completed bottom portion and return with payment by **Monday, December 6, 2010 - 9:30 a.m.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Store Name	Value	Qty

Store Name	Value	Qty

Staff Name	Amount



## December Bible Reading Schedule

1: Is. 7:10-8:8 1 Peter 3:1-22	1 John 5:1-21 2 <i>John</i> 1-13 3 <i>John</i> 1-15	21: Is. 42:1-25 Rev. 9:1-12	31: Is. 60:1-22 Luke 1:39-56
2: Is. 8:9-9:7 1 Peter 4:1-19	12: Is. 29:1-14 Jude 1-25	22: Is. 43:1-24 Rev. 9:13 – 10:11	<b>January</b>
3: Is. 9:8-10:11 1 Peter 5:1-14	13: Is. 29:15 – 30:14 Rev. 1:1-20	23: Is. 43:25 – 44:20 Rev. 11:2-19	01: Isaiah 61:1-11 Luke 1:57-80
4: Is. 10:12-27a, 33-34 2 Peter 1:1-21	14: Is. 30:15-26 Rev. 2:1-19	24: Is. 44:21 – 45:13, 20-25 <i>Dan. 10:1-12:13</i> <i>Is. 48:1-22</i>	02: Isaiah 62:1-12 Luke 2:1-20
5: Is. 11:1-12:6 2 Peter 2:1-22	15: Is. 30:27 – 31:9 Rev. 3:1-22	25: Is. 49:1-18 Matt. 1:1-17	03: Isaiah 63:1-14 Luke 2:21-40
6: Is. 14:1-23 2 Peter 3:1-18	16: Is. 32:1-20 Rev. 4:1-11	26: Is. 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8, 12-16 Matt. 1:18-25	04: Isaiah 63:15-65:2 Luke 2:41-52
7: Is. 24:1-13 1 John 1:1 – 2:14	17: Is. 33:1-24 Rev. 5:1-14	27: Is. 51:17-52:12 Matt. 2:1-12	05: Isaiah 65:8-25 Luke 3:1-20
8: Is. 24:14 – 25:12 <i>Obad. 1-21</i>	18: Is. 34:1-2, 8 – 35:10 <i>Micah 1:1 – 7:20</i>	28: Is. 52:13 – 54:10 Matt. 2:13-23	06: Isaiah 66:1-20 Luke 3:21-38
9: Is. 26:1-19 1 John 2:15-29	19: Is. 40:1-17 Rev. 7:1-17	29: Is. 55:1-13 Luke 1:1-25	07: Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28 <i>Habakkuk 1:1-3:19</i> Rom. 1:1-17
10: Is. 26:20 – 27:13 1 John 4:1-21	20: Is. 40:18 – 41:10 Rev. 8:1-13	30: Is. 58:1 – 59:3, 14-21 Luke 1:26-38	08: Ezek. 2:1—3:11 Rom. 1:18-32
11: Is. 28:14-29			



Please join us for the  
celebration of Christ's birth  
this Christmas Eve ...

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:  
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 24th

Christmas Eve Midnight Service:  
11:30 p.m. on Dec. 24th

...and as we look forward to a  
New Year in His Grace

New Year's Eve Worship Service:  
7:00 p.m. on Dec. 31st

Messiah Lutheran Church (LCMS) ♦ 1308 Whitley Rd., Keller, TX 76248  
817.431.2345 ♦ [www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

# HELP NEEDED! Evangelism & Missions

Spreading The Good News of Jesus Christ as the Savior to your neighbors and around the world is God's desire. At Messiah Lutheran Church we are addressing this informally with our attitudes and approach as Christians sharing Christ with others and through Mission partnering activities. Help is need for this Messiah Lutheran Church designated activities. All of these items are small enough to allow someone to spend a little time to make a big difference. If you can help or want to team with someone to help out the church in one of these tasks please call Paul Kohlmeier at (817) 281-3424 or send an email to [PKCKHOME@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:PKCKHOME@SBCGLOBAL.NET).

Mission or Evangelism Help	Volunteer Position Description	Position
Visitor Counters	Coordinate volunteers to review the friendship book pages and visitor book for Messiah visitor's names and additional information. Collect and report information after second service.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
Greeters	Coordinate volunteers to stand in narthex and greet everyone who comes in and guides visitors to information and the pastors.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
Keller Community Storehouse	Coordinate Donations, Events and Activities with the Storehouse, select and communicate events Messiah will support.	Co-Coordinators Carla Kohlmeier Kelly Kohlmeier
Angel Tree Ministry	Coordinate Angel Tree information, communication and donations for the Holiday and year round.	Coordinator Barbara Brewer
POBLO	Coordinate Events, Activities and Speakers. Select and communicate events Messiah will support. Provide feedback on group.	Coordinator Christi Nelson
Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ	Coordinate information and possible dates to support or have them come to Messiah.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
Braille Center	Run Center Basic Operation, coordinate production, supplies and support.	Lead Coordinator The Buhler's
Braille Center	Coordinate with the Buhler's on classes and communications with the church, bulletins and newsletters. Be the member liaison for the center.	Co-Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	Coordinate Events, Activities and Speakers. Select and communicate events Messiah will support. Provide feedback on group.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
The Luther Academy	Coordinate Events, Activities and Speakers. Select and communicate events Messiah will support. Provide feedback on group.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
LCMS World Relief and Human Care	Coordinate Events, Activities and Speakers. Select and communicate events Messiah will support. Provide feedback on group.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
The Voice of the Martyrs	Coordinate Events, Activities and Speakers. Select and communicate events Messiah will support. Provide feedback on group.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
Packages For Troops	Coordinate annual collection of items and packaging of boxes to be sent to the forces.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
News For Troops	Coordinate, write, or solicit newsletter and note to troops.	Coordinator <b>HELP NEEDED</b>

*Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

—Paul Kohlmeier, Board of Evangelism





## Messiah Lutheran Church & School

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Heather Heitmann, Director, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

Mrs. Kathy Blaschke, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

1981 ✠ 30<sup>th</sup> ✠ 2011

## Advent at Messiah:

**1984:** Messiah holds its first mid-week Advent service. For the next two years, the devotionals were held in homes—located in different geographical areas. Members gathered in individual homes for a brief devotional service, complete with Advent wreaths, hymns, Scripture readings, a brief meditation, and fellowship. In **1985** these were held in the Kitzmann, Huebel, and Nietenhoefer homes. In **1986**, it was the Nuse, Berkley, Schober, and Nietenhoefer homes. From 1987 on, the services moved back to the church.

## Christmas at Messiah:



1990: Rosemary Hobson, June Kath, Martha Kitzmann with the family Chrismons

**1980:** Keller Lutheran Mission had its first Christmas service at 9:00 p.m. in the Keller Lion's Club.

**1990:** our Altar Guild spent many hours making a fish-shaped Chrismon ornament for each family in the congregation.



Christmas Eve 1980, Keller Lion's Club



Christmas Eve 1990

For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations. --Psalm 100:5

## Activity Center Workday

Our workday on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Over 40 members, from youth through retired, attended at least some of the time. The Messiah Activities Center (MAC) had a major overhaul and now looks presentable to the thousands of people who pass by each day. Thanks to Bill Brandt, job superintendent, and to the Stewardship Board for the snacks and lunch. We will have another workday in the Spring.

