

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS

Malachi 3:1-7b; Philipians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-14

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School students studied "The Twelve Spies in Canaan" today. We are like the faithless Israelites, doubting and revolting against God's ways and direction. God forgave them and He forgives us our sins of disbelief through Christ who fought sin for us on the cross. Parents could ask, "How do we sometimes doubt God? What has God promised us?"

IN NEED OF GIFT CARDS? Thank you for supporting the Concordia Lutheran Scrip Program. We will have a table outside the Fellowship Hall each Sunday between services on December 9th and 16th. We carry the most popular gift cards and there are hundreds of retailers that can be special ordered. For a complete list of gift cards, go to ShopWithScrip.com. Place an order with us on Sunday and we can have your gift cards for you the following Sunday. Questions, contact Robin Danforth 206-276-2662.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Please see the ushers at the rear of the sanctuary to pick up your 2018 Advent Devotionals.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK ADVENT SCHEDULE: Mark your calendars! The midweek Advent services have been scheduled as listed.

What Child Is This?

December 5: The Child Who Is Zechariah's Hope

December 12: The Child Who Is a Virgin's Great Son

December 19: The Child Who Is John's Joy

Dinner will be held at 6:00 pm and service will be at 7:00 pm these evenings.

LADIES' GUILD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Ladies' Guild will be meeting December 12th at 12:00 pm at Bryant Corner Café for our annual Christmas Lunch! To RSVP, contact Jean Mindemann at 206-526-2523. All women of Messiah are invited to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Save the date for Sunday, December 16th when our Sunday School children will perform their Christmas program during the education hour. Parents, the children will be learning the songs during Sunday School for the weeks leading up to the program, so it will be most helpful to have regular attendance during this time so the children will feel well prepared for the performance. Also? Please bring them and your family to rehearsal on Saturday, December 15th at 10:00 am! This rehearsal is earlier in the day, so please note the time change from last year. We are excited to have you join us!

BELLS OF THE SOUND presents its holiday concert, "Home for the Holidays," using seven octaves of handbells on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 pm at Saint Andrews Lutheran Church in Bellevue, located at 2650 148th Ave SE. Admission is free. Also, see the flyer on the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: We will be going caroling to some of our shut-ins on Sunday, December 16th. The schedule hasn't been completed worked out, but we will likely meet at church around 1:00 pm and carpool to the various locations. Hope you can come and contribute your voices. Please contact Ann Melvin with any questions at 205-526-7161 or annmelvin@comcast.net

ANNUAL “THANK YOU” GIFT TO CHURCH STAFF: As we move into a new church year, let's take a moment to be thankful for the faithful preaching, teaching, and worship that we receive at Messiah. There are a number of workers in our church who make that possible. We traditionally collect a monetary “thank you gift” for our dedicated church staff to present to them at our Christmas Eve service. I ask each of you to prayerfully consider contributing to these gifts. To do so, please place your gift in a designated envelope and put it in the offering bag or deliver it to the church office by December 21st.

THIS MONTH’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECORATING MESSIAH WITH POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: Members who wish to contribute to the purchase of poinsettias for Christmas will find a sign-up sheet next to the flower chart in the hallway. The cost for each poinsettia is \$11.00. Please use a designated envelope, labeled Poinsettia, and place it in the collection with your Sunday offerings. You are welcome to take your flowers home after Christmas Day service. **Our Altar Guild will purchase the poinsettias and set them out for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.**

JUBILATE DEO! If you are a musician and have wanted to join the choir and ensemble but are not sure what we do, or if you are looking to share your talents in the spirit of Christmas giving, **come play and sing with us this Christmas Eve!** We welcome any instrument and vocal ability and would love to have you join us as we share our gifts with Christ's church. If you are interested, please join the ensemble rehearsal December 19th following Advent service, or the choir rehearsal December 20th at 7:00pm. Please contact Monica Berndt if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas Eve's Candlelight Service starts at **7:00 pm** with readings and hymns.

CHRISTMAS DAY: The matins service for Christmas starts at **9:30 am** this year. We look forward to seeing you as we welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS IS A-COMIN'! GET YOUR GREETING CARDS NOW!

Don't wait until the eleventh hour! Eliminate one more source of holiday stress by getting your Christmas cards now. Just \$1.00, ours are a fraction of the price from the retail stores. Come pick up yours today!

CONCORDIA HOLIDAY SALE: Concordia is selling gift cards during the holiday season at Messiah. We will have a table set up downstairs outside the Fellowship Hall each Sunday during the education hour. We have gift cards that are the same ones that you can purchase in the grocery store, but the difference is that Concordia is benefiting from your purchases. Concordia buys these cards at a discount, so with each gift card sale, our school is earning money! Stop by our table and check out our selection. We can place special orders and have it available the following week. From gifts to decorations, to holiday meals and more, everything to make your holiday season a lot easier. Here are some ideas for your holiday gift giving and shopping: coaches' gifts, teacher appreciation, corporate gifts, stocking stuffers.

CHANGES TO THE NURSERY: Due to some challenges related to the nanny service we have been using to staff our nursery on Sunday mornings, the Church Council has decided to end our contract with this staffing company as of the last Sunday in November. This decision was also made due to the large cost associated with providing this service (totaling \$6,000+ this fiscal year so far). The nursery will continue to be available for use during both services and the Education Hour, but there will no longer be a paid nanny present to provide childcare. Therefore, parents will need to remain present with their children while making use of the nursery. We are working to set up an audio connection for the TV in the nursery that currently only broadcasts video of the service. If there is enough interest, we can work to arrange a system for volunteers to help staff the nursery during the Education Hour. If you have any specific questions or concerns about this change, please contact Lisa Lindstrom in person or via email (lisa.lindstrom78@gmail.com).

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The first Wednesday of each month after the midweek service, we serve a hot meal to the attendees. We need volunteers to prepare a casserole, salad and dessert for 8 people. Please

contact Jean Mindemann, 206-526-9523, if you can help.

DONATION REPORT: In the month of November, we collected the following items for Compass Cascade Women's Center: 1 package of hygiene wipes; 1 package of liners; 4 containers of women's hygiene products. Thanks for helping those in need. In December, we will be collecting toothbrushes, toothpastes, and body/hand lotions.

FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU: Many thanks to all for the wonderful response to the Thanksgiving food collection. It was taken to the Lake City Food Bank by Robin Melvin and John Koppleman (thank you, Robin and John). Those donations will make the holiday very special for the people who receive it. We received \$150 in cash and 606 lbs of food.

CHRISTMAS BOX UPDATE: Sue and I thank you for your generous participation for the Christmas Boxes. And there is still time to donate items by selecting items to be given to those in need. Items like "chicks" that will provide eggs for food and for sale. There are many items from which to choose to give ongoing help. Find more informational booklet on the Christmas table and contact Sharon to forward you selection close to Christmas day. 🎄

TWIN BLANKETS & SOCKS: Lisa Lindstrom has offered a Thrivent grant for the purchase of blankets and socks. The deadline is December 23rd leaving time for delivery to the local people in need. Please bring your items from home, from shopping, from Goodwill to the Narthex table. Let's sock it to them with goods! Socks are needed for mothers with children, fathers with children, and single folks. Contact Sharon for any questions, 206-362-6774. 🧦

TALK RADIO FOR THE ADVENT SEASON...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's teachings include: The Advent Hymns "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" & "Once He Came in Blessing," Messengers from John the Baptist, Mary Visits Elizabeth and more. You can listen at live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

DAILY READINGS

December 9: Is. 26:1–19; 1 John 3:1–24; **10:** Is. 26:20–27:13; 1 John 4:1–21; **11:** Is. 28:14–29; 1 John 5:1–21; **12:** Is. 29:1–14; Jude 1–25; **13:** Is. 29:15–30:14; Rev. 1:1–20; **14:** Is. 30:15–26; Rev. 2:1–29; **15:** Is. 30:27–31:9; Rev. 3:1–22.



What Child Is This?



Join us for this 2018 Advent series!

Midweek I: The Child Who Is Zechariah's Hope
Midweek II: The Child Who Is a Virgin's Great Son
Midweek III: The Child Who Is John's Joy
Christmas Matins: The Child Who Is the Lord



Messiah Lutheran Church's annual

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 24th, 7:00 pm

Join us.

