

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-28

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: The children will be performing this year's annual Christmas Program in the Fellowship Hall during the Education hour. Don't miss out!

BELLS OF THE SOUND presents its holiday concert, "Home for the Holidays," using seven octaves of handbells TODAY 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.

2019 BOX ENVELOPES: Starting today your 2019 box envelopes are ready for pickup out in the Narthex. **Please note: ALL 2019's box numbers have changed from 2018's, so your current number will not be the one you'll use starting this January.** For members who don't currently have a box number for a fiscal end-of-year tax statement and would like to start tracking your Sunday tithes for your 2019 taxes, contact the office today! We have leftover available box numbers up for grabs!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY: We will be going caroling to some of our shut-ins on Sunday, December 16th. We'll be meeting 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.

IN NEED OF GIFT CARDS? Today is the last day to pick these up! Thank you for supporting the Concordia Lutheran Scrip Program. 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.

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 today.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK ADVENT SCHEDULE: Join us for our last Advent Midweek service scheduled for December 19th. We'll focus next on The Child Who Is John's Joy. As per usual, dinner will be held at 6:00 pm and service will be at 7:00 pm these evenings.

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

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!

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).

MEN'S NIGHT OUT: The next Men's Night Out will be held on Monday, January 14th at 6:00 pm at Mazatlan Restaurant, located at 6003

244th St. SW in Mountlake Terrace. Please RSVP to Brian Danforth, 206-363-5654.

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.

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. 🙏

DAILY READINGS

December 16: Is. 32:1–20; Rev. 4:1–11; **17:** Is. 33:1–24; Rev. 5:1–14; **18:** Is. 34:1–2, 8–35:10; Rev. 6:1–17; **19:** Is. 40:1–17; Rev. 7:1–17; **20:** Is. 40:18–41:10; Rev. 8:1–13; **21:** Is. 42:1–25; Rev. 9:1–12; **22:** Is. 43:1–24; Rev. 9:13–10:11.

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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.

