



THE MESSENGER

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

Rachel Robins, Office Administrator

December 2021

Vol. 80 No. 11

From the Call Committee

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we enter the Advent season, the Call Committee would like to provide an update on the status/next steps on the pastoral coverage and the call process for a long-term pastor at Messiah Lutheran. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Flath serving our congregation as approved during the Congregation meeting on November 14th, he will be serving as the vacancy pastor through mid-January. We thank God for his continued ministry. Pastor Flath will be leading worship during both Sunday services, leading Bible Class and working with the Elders on visiting shut-in members. You can contact him through phone (cell: 425.210.1795; home: 360.568.6580); or email (Pastor_R_Flath@msn.com).

It was also decided during the meeting that we would initiate the process of calling a full-time pastor and foregoing calling an Intentional Interim pastor to Messiah Lutheran. Please note that we can revisit this decision as a congregation if a need arises.

The steps for this process are as follows:

1. Completing a self-survey about Messiah and our ministry and submitting to our District Office (to be completed prior to providing the names of potential Pastors).
2. Gathering names of potential Pastors for the Call List from our members by December 19th
3. Receiving names from our District President of other potential Pastors from around the country
4. Considering the names from both the congregation and the District Office and narrowing down to one man
5. Placing a Divine Call to this man, to be our Pastor
6. If the Pastor returns the Divine call, the congregation will repeat steps 4 & 5 until a Pastor accepts.

The next congregational meeting on the call process is scheduled on January 9th when the call committee will review the names of potential Pastors to serve at Messiah Lutheran (the time of the meeting will be shared in mid-December). Additionally, please remember to have any names submitted to call@messiahseattle.org by December 19th for the call committee consideration.

If you have other questions, please reach out to the Call Committee thru email at call@messiahseattle.org. Equally, you are welcome to reach out to Congregational President, Mark Jorgensen; Head Elder, Lee Cohrs; or any members of the church council.

Please continue to keep our congregation, the Call Committee, and the men whom we will consider calling to be our new Pastor. We will follow God's guidance through this process, and trust that He has our new Shepherd in His care.

In His Service,
Messiah Call Committee

FROM THE OFFICE

THE NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20, 2021
Please ensure your announcements/articles arrive at the church office by the date above if you would like them in the next Messenger. The Messenger deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month unless there is a holiday. Please place all messages and articles in the office mailbox located in the choir room or email them to office@messiahseattle.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE MANKIN FAMILY –
Several members had asked if there was a way to stay connected with Pastor Mankin and family. On the next page is the address and phone number of his new congregation:

Town & Country Lutheran Church
4049 Marconi Ave
Sacramento, WA 96820
Church Phone: 916-481-2542

THIS YEAR'S ADVENT SERIES

SYMBOLS OF SALVATION: *FORETELLING CHRIST'S BIRTH*

Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14); "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6); and "From you [O Bethlehem] shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days" (Micah 5:2). These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But in addition to these wonderful verses, Jesus teaches us that, in fact, the entire Old Testament prophecies about Him—"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27, emphasis added). "For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:14, emphasis added). "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me" (John 5:39, emphasis added). All of the Bible is about Jesus. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus' advent among us in the flesh. As the hymn puts it,

For deep in prophets' sacred page,
And grand in poets' winged word,
Slowly in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord. (LSB 810:2)

The various "types" in the Old Testament point to a complete fulfillment in Jesus. He is the perfect Israel and the culmination of its divinely given institutions. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures, for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it was and continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ to us.

The Advent sermons in this series focus on three particular Old Testament narratives that serve as symbols of Jesus' coming to share in our humanity: the

burning bush, the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. The Christmas sermon then focuses on how the narrative of Jesus' birth is no fairy tale but a true story that also foretells the purpose of Jesus' incarnation. Jesus takes on our flesh so that He might die in the flesh for our sins and be raised bodily for our justification (Romans 4:25). All of Scripture finds its culmination and fulfillment in Him. May God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation this season on Him who is the Word made flesh!

SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICES

MIDWEEK ADVENT SCHEDULE

The midweek Advent services have been scheduled as listed below and start at 7:00 pm.

Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth

December 1: Old Testament Christmas

December 8: The Lord Sets Up His Tent Among Us

December 15: You Shall Defeat Them As One Man

ADVENT DINNERS RETURN

Don't want to attend our midweek services hungry? Messiah is resuming our 6:00 pm soup suppers in the Fellowship Hall prior to service.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

This year there will be two Christmas Eve's services at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Divine Service for Christmas starts at 9:30 am. We look forward to sharing the good news as we welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

This year, we're holding a single service for the first Sunday after Christmas, December 26th, at 9:30 am.

FROM THE TREASURER

Below is the 2021 Financial Summary through October:

- 2021 Spending Guide (SG) Expenses - prorated through October: \$471,103
- 2021 Actual Expenses through October: \$473,799 (7.07% below SG), including funds set aside for future use: \$55,000
- 2021 Actual Offerings/Income through October: \$509,497 (8.15% above SG), including PPP grant: \$93,446

The operating results through October is a surplus of 71,698; this includes \$55,000 in funds set aside for future use and the PPP loans received and forgiven, totaling \$93,446. God be praised for providing these resources during this time. Please remember in your prayers to thank the Lord for Messiah's blessings, and pray for His continued gifts to sustain us in the year to come. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

MINISTRIES OF MESSIAH

ANNUAL STAFF "THANK YOU" GIFT – *MARK JORGENSEN*

As we move beyond Thanksgiving and into a new church year, let's take a moment to be thankful for the faithful preaching, teaching and worship that we experience at Messiah. There are a number of workers in our church who make that possible. Messiah traditionally collects 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 marked "Staff Gift" and put it in the offering bag or deliver it to the church office **by December 19th**.

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. Please sign up by December 5th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$20.00. 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.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT – *BRIAN DANFORTH*

Please join us Monday, December 6th at 6:00 pm at Mamma Melina Ristorante, located at 5101 25th Ave NE. RSVP to Brian Danforth, 206-363-5654.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – *ROCHELLE PEMBERTON*

Fill your heart with joy while awaiting the Savior's birth! Come to the children's Christmas program in the Fellowship Hall during the Education Hour on Sunday, December 12th. There will be a short presentation of the Christmas story and some singing by the children of Messiah. Food will be served. Due to Covid, we are asking that everyone remain masked during the singing portions of the presentation. There will be plenty of time after the presentation to have fellowship and enjoy refreshments. If you are unable to join us in person, you

can always join us online by going to www.messiahseattle.org and watch the livestream of the Sunday Morning Education Hour on December 12th.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES PROJECTS – *SHARON CHRISTIANSEN*

We're currently seeking the following items so that we might be a blessing to our community. Thank you in advance. You are invited to review the postings in the 2nd floor hallway. Feel free to invite others to participate outside of Messiah. Sharon will pick up your items. Questions? Contact Sharon at 206-362-6774.

1. Closet cleaning for any clothing and shoes-socks-slippers.
2. Kitchen clearance of essentials you no longer use & are now just taking cabinet space.
3. We are also collecting Christmas gift cards for the Compass Housing. Please give cash or checks to Sharon Christiansen by December 8th. The gift cards will then be purchased through the Concordia scrip program (thus, also, benefiting the school). Checks should be made out to CCC (Concordia Cardinal Cash). Any questions, please contact Cheryl Kohring (206) 617- 4720 or Robin Danforth (206) 276-2662.
4. Cookie donation: purchased or homemade. Homemade goodies must have ingredients listed. December 20th delivery date deadline.
5. We received 190 pairs of socks for Nightwatch. Thank you, Messiah Members! Energy Bars, ponchos, hand warmers and blankets are still items of need. Please drop off your donations by December 26th so items can be delivered to homeless on the street at nightfall.

DONATIONS FOR A GRANDMOTHER IN NEED: Recently, a special request has come to Messiah from a grandmother with two grandkids in Capital Hill area. We are looking for Christmas gifts for a 11-year-old boy (size 14 shirt), size 4 boys shoes, basketball, or video games. The 8-year-old girl would like a doll; she likes to color so crayons and coloring books were her wishes, cut-outs; she wears a girls size 7 and her shoe size is 2. If you can help with new or hand-me-down items bring them to the narthex. Follow up with Sharon Christiansen at 206-362-6774 and schonau@comcast.net for more information.

IN NEED OF GIFT CARDS? - *ROBIN DANFORTH*

Thank you for supporting the Concordia Lutheran Scrip Program. We will be doing things different this year and will not be selling at church. You can place an order by emailing me, danforthrl@gmail.com or by phone 206-276-2662 and we can arrange delivery and/or pickup. For

a complete list of gift cards, go to ShopWithScrip.com. You can get some things checked off your list and support our school in the process! Questions contact Robin Danforth 206-276-2662.

CHRISTMAS CARDS – JAN SHOLDT

Christmas cards are now available in the Narthex. Come support Messiah missions and pick one up today. Only \$1, they're a great deal!

PASTORAL/ELDER CARE & PRAYER TREE – LEE COHRS

With the Pastoral Vacancy at Messiah, in the event of any member needing Pastoral/Elder Care (health situation, emergency, etc.), please contact your Messiah Elder, noted in the list below.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Beginning of Last Name</u>	<u>Contact</u>
David Miller	A – B	206.708.9315
Robin Melvin	C – F	206.369.4549
Andrew Petro	G – H	206.276.5581
Harry Edmon	I – L	425.772.0220
Lee Cohrs	M – N	206.310.0663
Josh Pemberton	O – P	425.221.1119
Mike Boomhower	Q – R	206.368.7836
Lee Cohrs	S – T	206.310.0663
Neil Strege	U – Z	425.269.8530

If you have Prayer Tree requests, please reach out to Stephanie Colbert at stephcolbert@yahoo.com.

IN NEED OF HANDYMEN! The Maintenance Committee is currently one person, so we're looking for volunteers that would be willing to serve. Contact the office for more information.

AMAZONSMILE: Are you an Amazon customer? Did you know you can have a small portion of each purchase donated to Messiah Lutheran Church if you order via AmazonSmile? The merchandise and prices are exactly the same as Amazon.com—but the benefit is that .5% of your purchase will be donated to a charity of your choice. You can set Messiah Lutheran Church as the beneficiary. Go to Amazon.com and do a search for AmazonSmile to learn more about this program.

MORE TOPICS, MORE GUESTS, MORE JESUS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Advent Hymn "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," Encouragement for Christians in World of Darkness, A

Lutheran View of Transgenderism, The Socialist Attack on the Family, Jesus' Transfiguration and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

GOODBYE FROM THE ZIMMERMANS

The Zimmerman family has moved to Portland. Forty-six years ago, we moved to Seattle. We immediately were at home at Messiah. It felt so warm, friendly and a place where we felt close to God's love. We have met so many wonderful people at Messiah. Some are gone now, but there are so many lovely new members. I was encouraged to teach Sunday School and it turned out to be one of my life's greatest experiences. It was Robert's great joy that he was an elder, on council, and ultimately helped James work on the woodwork for the organ, the Fellowship Hall, and worked with Pastor Mankin on the parsonage. One great memory at Messiah for us was the Fellowship Group we were part of years ago when our children were small. We met so many people through that experience and we will always think of them as special friends. Our children, John, Mark, and Cali grew up at Messiah and it was a wonderful place for them. We have watched so many of Gods children grow up at Messiah. What a blessing to be part of all these lives.

We want to thank everyone in the Messiah family for being so kind to us and giving us so much love after Robert's stroke. Also thank you so much to the wonderful Pastor's and Bible study teachers we have had here at Messiah.

Love to everyone,
Sara and Robert Zimmerman
sarabob99@comcast.net | 503-208-2661
1935 NE 149th Ave, Portland, Oregon 97230

CURRENT & UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

What: Lutheran Difference: Priesthood & Ministry
When: Sundays at 9:30 am
Where: Fellowship Hall and Online
Teacher: Rev. Flath

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What: Book of Acts
When: Tuesdays, 10:00 am
Where: Fellowship Hall and Online
Teacher: Harry Edmon

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

What: OVERVIEW: Genesis - Deuteronomy
When: Thursdays, 7:00 pm
Where: Online
Teacher: Jim Grant

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OFFICIAL ACTS

BIRTHDAYS

Shelley Tennant	12/01
Titus Grant	12/02
Heidi Morse	12/02
Bev Edmon	12/04
Dea Pearce	12/06
Susie Paeth	12/07
Yurheiness Branch	12/14
Destiny Aguayo	12/16
Carter Petro	12/17
Laurie Mendes	12/19
Lucy Neubert	12/20
Danielle Smith	12/22
Adeline Bourn	12/26
Andrew Melvin	12/28

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dick & Jan Hillmann	12/26
Robert & Barbara Denis	12/29

OFFICIAL ACTS

In November, the Zimmermans moved to Portland and will be transferring their membership to a new church there.

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

ELDERS

8:00 am

5 Michael Boomhower, Harry Edmon
12 Harry Edmon, Lee Cohrs
19 Lee Cohrs, Robin Melvin

10:45 am

5 David Miller, Neil Strege
12 Neil Strege, Josh Pemberton
19 Josh Pemberton, David Miller

9:30 am

26 Andrew Petro, Michael Boomhower

READERS

8:00 am

5 Robin Melvin
12 Lee Cohrs
19 Harry Edmon

10:45 am

Sue Hewitson
Dan Lassman
Curt Colbert

9:30 am

26 David Miller

USHERS

8:00 am

5 Lee Cohrs
12 Harry Edmon
19 Sharon Christiansen

10:45 am

Steve Miller
Dave Paeth
Curt Colbert

9:30 am

26 Harry Edmon

ALTAR GUILD

5 Cheryl Taylor, Stephanie Colbert
12 Joanne Estergreen, Jean Mindemann
19 Cheryl Taylor
26 Jack & Donna Holdridge

Advent, Christmas Eve, & Christmas Services

USHERS

1 Curt Colbert
8 Harry Edmon
15 Dan Lassman
24 Steve Miller
25 Lee Cohrs

ELDERS

25 Harry Edmon

ALTAR GUILD

1 Jean Mindemann
8 Stephanie Colbert
15 Jean Mindemann
24 Cheryl Taylor
25 Jack & Donna Holdridge

Merry
Christmas

December 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 ADVENT I 7:00 pm Vespers 8:00 pm Choir	2 7:00 pm Bible Study Online	3	4
5 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service	6 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	7 10:00 am Bible Study	8 ADVENT II 7:00 pm Vespers 8:00 pm Choir	9 7:00 pm Bible Study Online 7:00 pm Ensemble	10	11
12 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Children's Christmas Program 10:45 am Divine Service	13	14 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Council mtg	15 ADVENT III 7:00 pm Vespers 8:00 pm Choir	16 7:00 pm Bible Study Online 7:00 pm Ensemble	17	18
19 8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Education Hour 10:45 am Divine Service	20 MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 pm Candlelight Service 7:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS 9:30 am Service
26 9:30 am Divine Service	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	

Join us for our Advent teaching series



SYMBOLS OF SALVATION

FORETELLING
CHRIST'S BIRTH

THE FIRST THREE

Wednesdays in December

SERVICES START AT 7:00 PM

This year's topics include:
"Old Testament Christmas,"
"The Lord Sets Up His Tent Among Us,"
"You Shall Defeat Them as One Man."



Sundays

in

Advent





CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Service

Merry

Christmas

