



# THE MESSENGER

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

Peter W. W. Elliott, Pastor  
Lydia Miller, Office Administrator

December 2023

Vol. 82 No. 11

*From the Desk of Pastor Elliott*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Advent, which in Latin means “coming,” is a joyous season with some of my favorite hymns: *O Come O Come Emmanuel, The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns, and Savior of the Nations Come*. It is a time to rejoice because our Lord came into the world for our salvation 2023 years ago, still comes today in Word and Sacrament, and will come visibly on the Last Day to make all things new. The Lord’s advents are always good!

Advent is also a time of repentance. If Christ is coming to take away sins, then it is a perfect time to confess sins. And if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Repentance is a way of life for Christians; we repent every day. However, seasons like Advent and Lent focus on the topic, highlight the importance, and remind those of us who have wandered to return to the Lord our God.

For us northern hemisphere Christians, there’s the additional experience of ever-growing darkness at this time of the year. The darkness makes us crave the light, just as the evil in the world makes us crave the righteousness of Him, who is Light! So, we’ll gather during Advent to sing, “Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome!”

Last year for Advent, we studied Commandments 1-3. For Lent, we studied Commandments 4-10. This year for Advent, we’ll continue our journey through the catechism by studying the articles of the Apostles’ Creed. Come on Wednesdays December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> for an excellent meal and to celebrate the season.

In Christ,  
Pastor

## FROM THE OFFICE

THE JANUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 19TH  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Please place all messages in the choir room office mailbox or email them to [office@messiahseattle.org](mailto:office@messiahseattle.org).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, HARRY EDMON

Our church property requires quite a bit of maintenance. Many people have contributed over the past year and I thank God for all of you. But there are a few people who have been especially active in working around the building.

First of all I would like thank our “jack of all trades” James Leary. Margaret will probably claim James spends more time at church than he does at home! I would also like to thank David Miller who has been helping James with several projects including the replacing of the organ blower and his brother Steve for his help with the electrical. Josh Pemberton also has been active in the organ blower project, in arranging the updating of our security system, and in other projects around the church. Andrew Ferguson and Chris Zakian maintain our technical equipment including our computer systems, security cameras, and audio/visual equipment. And a special shout out to past Messiah member Rick Greenquist who has recently spent several Saturdays fixing the heating system for the office.

Finally I would like to thank all of you who filled out our maintenance survey. This will be a valuable asset as we look for members to help with future projects.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual congregational meeting and contributed their thoughts! I look forward to another year as your treasurer. For anyone who could not attend, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at [treasurer@messiahseattle.org](mailto:treasurer@messiahseattle.org).

Erin Goodnow

## ADVENT DINNERS – JILL PETRO

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Join us for our Advent Suppers at 6pm every Wednesday prior to the Advent Service at 7pm.

To help everyone know what is on the Advent Supper Menu, there will be an announcement in the bulletin the Sunday prior listing the menu for the Advent Supper! Also, I will post a menu in the Narthex which will have the menu advertised as well so everyone will know what will be served for supper that night!

Our Advent Suppers & Services are the following  
December Dates: 12/6, 12/13, 12/20

### ADVENT DINNER MENU

**Wednesday December 6th:** Dinner Hosted by the Elders at 6pm

Dinner Menu: HOMEMADE Chili Nite!

1. Traditional: Willy B's Red Chili (Franklin, Tennessee)
2. Vegetarian chili option: McSorley's Wonderful Veggie Chili (Toronto, Ontario)
3. White bean chicken chili: Mill Creek, WA (friend's recipe)

*On the side: cheese, sour cream, chopped onion, hot sauce, and corn bread!*

**Wednesday, December 13th:** Dinner Hosted by the Youth Group at 6pm

Dinner Menu: To be determined! Watch for the Bulletin Announcement & Narthex Menu Board!

**Wednesday, December 19th:** Dinner Hosted by the Council at 6pm

Dinner Menu: To be determined! Watch for the Bulletin Announcement & Narthex Menu Board!

We can't wait to see you there!

Let me know if you have questions at 206.276.5379 or jrpetro73@gmail.com

## MINISTRIES OF MESSIAH

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### THANK YOU – SUE HEWITSON

Thank you all for your donations to the Lake City Food Bank collection. We were able to donate 267 lbs. of food this season! The food you donated will make the recipients' tummies quit grumbling and their hearts full of gratitude. You were generous and that is appreciated.

### IN NEED OF GIFT CARDS? – ROBIN DANFORTH

The holidays are coming and once again Concordia requests that you think of SCRIP for all your gift card needs. We will be at our usual location in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall each Sunday after service on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. We carry the most popular gift cards and there are hundreds of retailers that we can special order for you. For a complete list of gift cards, go to RaiseRight.com. Place an order with us on Sunday and we can have your gift cards for you the following Sunday. If you have any questions, contact Robin Danforth or Cheryl Kohring. Thank you for supporting the Concordia Lutheran Scrip Program.

### MEN'S NIGHT OUT – BRIAN DANFORTH

Please join us on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Scott's Bar and Grill. 8115 Lake Ballinger Way, Edmonds. Please RSVP to Brian Danforth.

### ADVENT POINSETTIAS – CHERYL TAYLOR

Christmas is coming and Altar Guild invites the congregation to purchase poinsettias for the sanctuary. We will purchase the flowers and put them out on the third Sunday of Advent. You may take your poinsettia home after service on Christmas Day or later. Please sign up on the sheet next to the flower chart in the hallway and include payment in an offering envelope marked "Poinsettias". Plants are \$20.00 each.

### ANNUAL STAFF "THANK YOU" GIFT – HARRY EDMON

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. A number of workers in our church work hard throughout the year to 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. Please 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 17th.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – ROCHELLE PEMBERTON

Fill your heart with joy while awaiting the Savior's birth! Come to the children's Christmas service on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 during the Education Hour. The service is in the Sanctuary this year and coffee, and treats will be served following the service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

#### SPARE CALENDAR DONATION – *CHERYL KOHRING*

If you receive 2024 Calendars in mailed solicitations that you do not need will you please leave them on the social ministry table in the narthex. They will be taken to LMS care centers where residents have need of one. Thank you.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE – *JAN SHOLDT*

New Christmas cards are in the narthex for just \$1! You can find cards here for almost any occasion at a fraction of the normal cost. The money collected goes to missions.

#### ROOM MAKEOVER- MESSIAH EDITION! – *JILL PETRO*

The Young Adult Group and Fellowship chair are working together to plan to make over one of the Sunday school classrooms in an effort to make a lounge area & meeting room for the young adults at Messiah! To make over the room, the Fellowship chair and Young adult group are looking for any Thrivent Members who have an interest in using their Thrivent Grant to help raise funds for new furniture, paint, supplies for this room makeover! If you are a Thrivent Member interested in donating your grant to this great cause, please let Jill Petro know 206-276-5379 or jrpetro73@gmail.com

#### SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS SNACK SIGN-UP – *BEV EDMON*

The Sunday Bible Class Snack sign-up sheet for December and January is on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. There is space for 2 people to sign-up each week if you want to team up. Currently there are around 60 adults and 40 children attending Bible Class and Sunday School. It is helpful if you will make coffee. Instructions are on the side of the coffee maker. Jean Mindemann, Sarah Jorgensen, Bev Edmon, and many others can show you the ropes.

#### LISTEN TO A LUTHERAN BIBLE STUDY ON THE PHONE...

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Acts. You can listen by calling (618) 262-0078.

## CONCORDIA CORNER

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**What's Happening:** Concordia students are working hard and practicing for the Christmas program! They are memorizing songs, learning instruments and parts for a skit. This month, students are celebrating different family traditions. We kicked-off this month with a presentation by the Sankrithi family from Lake Forest Park, WA. They shared their family traditions around the three pillars of their homeschooling: music, chess, and travel. Their most recent project, co-authoring and publishing *Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk?: Family Experiences Around Child-Led Learning*, highlights their fun family environment where every day is an opportunity to learn, express, and challenge themselves. Hear from Sarang (age 10), Vivaan (age 5), and Siva (dad), three of the four co-authors (Aarti (mom) unable

to attend) about their unique family lifestyle, writing a book together, and how child-led learning can apply in all our lives.

**Christmas Store:** Each December we give students the chance to go “shopping” for their immediate family members! If you have any gently used knick knacks, ties, mugs, perfumes, jewelry, toys, or puzzles that you would like to donate, we will gladly add them to our “store” for kids to buy for their parents and siblings! You can bring your items to Concordia by Friday, December 8th! If you're interested in volunteering to help set up and/or assist students in shopping, contact the main office.

**Christmas Program:** Come see Concordia's Christmas Program on Thursday, December 14th! The program will be at 6:30pm in Concordia's gym.

**Ways to Help: Prayers:** Pray for our teachers, students, and families as we build community, grow student confidence, and help them achieve academic standards all in a Christ-centered, grace filled environment. Thank you for all your support and prayers this year- we appreciate your partnership! **Share the News:** We have openings! Guide friends, neighbors, and those you meet to our website to find out about our unique personalized learning and project based learning experiences for Kindergarten-8th Grade.

**Job Opportunities:** We are hiring a part-time afternoon preschool teacher (1pm - 5:30pm). Contact Pam at [preschool@concordiaseattle.com](mailto:preschool@concordiaseattle.com). We are also hiring a Music Teacher. Contact Principal Malone at [cmalone@concordiaseattle.com](mailto:cmalone@concordiaseattle.com).



## CURRENT & UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES

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### SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

What: Study of Abraham and Sarah  
When: Sundays at 10:30 am  
Where: Fellowship Hall and Online  
Teacher: Pastor Elliott

### MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

What: Letters of John  
When: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 7:30 pm  
Where: Zoom  
Teacher: Ann Melvin

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

What: The Augsburg Confession  
When: Tuesdays, 10:00 am  
Where: Fellowship Hall and Online  
Teacher: Harry Edmon

### THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

What: Christ in the Old Testament  
When: Thursdays, 7:00 pm  
Where: Online  
Teacher: Jim Grant

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OFFICIAL ACTS

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### BIRTHDAYS

Shelley Tennant	12/01
Titus Grant	12/02
Heidi Morse	12/02
Mykira Robinson	12/02
Bev Edmon	12/04
Dea Pearce	12/06
Susan Paeth	12/07
Yurheiness Branch	12/14
Destiny Aguayo	12/16
Carter Petro	12/17
Lucy Neubert	12/20
Adeline Bourn	12/26
Andrew Melvin	12/28

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dick & Jan Hillman	12/26
Pastor & Valerie Elliott	12/31

## DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

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### ACOLYTES

**3** Ellie Strege  
**6** Hank Petro (**Midweek Advent**)  
**10** Daniel Elliott  
**13** Lily Strege (**Midweek Advent**)  
**17** Isaiah Elliott  
**20** Theo Petro (**Midweek Advent**)  
**24** Gabby Strege  
**24** Owen Petro (**Candlelight Service**)  
**25** Elijah Elliott  
**31** Daniel Elliott

### ALTAR GUILD

**3** Cheryl Taylor, Erin Goodnow  
**6** Donna & Jack Holdridge (**Midweek Advent**)  
**10** Sharon Christiansen, Dawn Plumb  
**13** Joanne Estergreen (**Midweek Advent**)  
**16** Cheryl Taylor, Donna & Jack (**Poinsettias**)  
**17** Joanne Estergreen, Sharon Christiansen  
**20** Stephanie Colbert (**Midweek Advent**)  
**24** Donna & Jack Holdridge  
**24** Dawn Plumb, Donna & Jack (**Candlelight Service**)  
**25** OPEN  
**31** Cheryl Taylor, Dawn Plumb

### ELDERS

**3** Mark Jorgensen, Lee Cohrs  
**10** Andrew Petro, David Miller  
**17** Neil Strege, Justin Bourn  
**24** Lee Cohrs, Josh Pemberton  
**25** Robin Melvin, Andrew Petro  
**31** Justin Bourn, Mark Jorgensen

### USHERS

**3** Dave Paeth  
**6** Sharon Christiansen (**Midweek Advent**)  
**10** Curt Colbert  
**13** Lee Cohrs (**Midweek Advent**)  
**17** Steven Miller  
**20** Harry Edmon (**Midweek Advent**)  
**24** Dave Paeth  
**24** Sharon Christiansen (**Candlelight Service**)  
**25** Curt Colbert  
**31** Lee Cohrs

# December 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 10:30 am Young Adult Singles Group
3 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Education Hour	4 7:30 pm Women's Zoom Bible Study	5 10:00 am Bible Study	6 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Service 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Education Hour	11 Concordia Kids Christmas Sale 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	12 10:00 am Bible Study	13 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Service 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30 pm Concordia Christmas Program 7:00 pm Bible Study	15	16 10:30 am Young Adult Singles Group
17 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Education Hour	18 7:30 pm Women's Zoom Bible Study	19 JANUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE 10:00 am Bible Study	20 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Service 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm Bible Study	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Children's Christmas program 7:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 am Christmas Day Service	26	27	28 7:00 pm Bible Study	29	30 10:30 am Young Adult Singles Group
31 9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Education Hour						

*Glory* \*  
TO THE NEWBORN  
\* *King*



# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter

is printed eleven times each year by:

Messiah Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

7050 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Seattle, WA 98115

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

Sunday Schedule

Divine Service at 9:00 am

Education Hour 10:30 am live & online

Contact Us

Phone: (206) 524-0024

E-mail: [office@messiahseattle.org](mailto:office@messiahseattle.org)



Messiah Lutheran Church  
7050 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

DECEMBER 2023  
EDITION