



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am - 4pm

Worship for Sunday, December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion

Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:30 am in-person and livestreamed/posted on the Messiah YouTube channel. **Wearing of masks is not required but Messiah is a mask-friendly environment.** Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged. **Due to water main issues, the building is without water, with limited access to washrooms (some water is available for emergency flushing purposes).** All are welcome to join in pre-service coffee time in the Peace Chapel (and sometimes George brings cookies!!!).

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:

We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their time of need.



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- Food and other items are being collected for donation to the Food Bank. These items can be **dropped off on Sunday mornings or during Messiah office hours.** A list of food suggestions is provided in the Narthex.
 - If you want new envelopes for the 2023, please contact Harvey Jacobsen at 306-764-8414.

ADVENT CHOIR

The Choir will be having practice Dec 18 at 9:15am, performing Christmas Eve, no practice Christmas or New Year's Days.

Practice will resume Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 9:15am.
Please contact May Janzen or Colleen Bowen for further information.





Christmas Service Poinsettias: donated plants can be dropped off at the Messiah office no later than Wednesday, December 21, by 12 noon. If you are donating a Poinsettia in memory of someone, please phone (leave a message) or email the Messiah office by noon, December 20th.

Messiah Lutheran Women Mitten Tree: Two boxes are available as a “mitten tree” for the collection of mitts, toques, scarfs and gloves, in the Narthex and another in the Messiah office entry. These articles are given to a community school or organization for children and families without these necessities.

Memorial Christmas Tree:

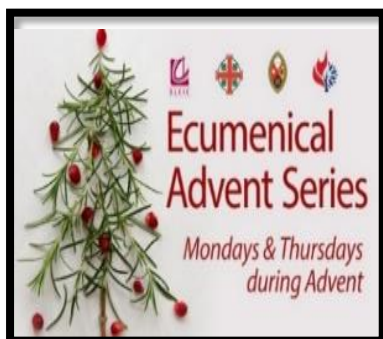
★ ★ ★ 🌲 REMEMBERING: During Advent, a STAR ornament, is provided for you to hang on the Memorial Christmas Tree. You can write the names of those you wish to remember on the star. After Christmas the star will be available for you to take home. If you would like a star to be hung on the tree, but will not be at Messiah, please contact the Messiah office with your information. REMEMBERING. ★ ★ ★ 🌲



Canadian Lutheran World Relief: Gifts From The Heart catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available at Messiah, by emailing clwr@clwr.org or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.



From progressive ministries to practical spiritual guidance, *Canada Lutheran* introduces you to people and ideas from across Canada that provoke discussion and connect you to our congregation, Saskatchewan Synod, the National Church, and our global ministries – helping you to live your life *In Mission for Others*. For \$19.50 (about \$2.50 per issue), you will receive 8 issues a year, as well as access to a Full Digital Copy. To subscribe for 2023, please contact the Messiah office by **December 22**, or phone/text Cheryl at 306.961.2967.



EVERY MONDAY DURING ADVENT, the national church leaders of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Evangelical Lutheran in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada will release an ecumenical Advent meditation reflecting the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love, and challenges facing the Canadian churches. **EVERY THURSDAY**, join in a live discussion, via Zoom, with one of the leaders on that week's Advent theme. To receive the meeting link for each event and receive email reminders of each week's upcoming events, visit Advent2022.ca

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

May God's name be honoured among us always. Amen.

To all of us gathered here for worship this day, may we in this Advent Season be alert to the times in which we live. It is so easy to drift into complacency. But we are called to new directions as followers of the One whose birth we are soon to celebrate. We live in anticipation second coming in all majesty and glory. In humility let us confess our sins which pull us down. Let us acknowledge those things which deflect us from our service, in love for God, and in the redemptive work we are called to share in the (often) struggling world in which we live.

Our Confession:

Gracious God, we hear your voice in the scriptures. There you bear witness to the gracious gift of fellowship in which you have walked with your people throughout history. As your people often struggled, we acknowledge that we also struggle. We need your forgiveness and your guidance in our life's journey. We confess that we get caught up in ourselves and our insecurities even when you call us to forget about ourselves and trust in your instruction, care and provision. Help us O God to find the reason for the deep joy of this season of Advent and in your grace help us to find your peace. Amen.

Absolution:

The promise of God: "If you confess your sins, He (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9). In the freedom of God's forgiveness may you take up the burdens and joys of each day and live at peace with God and with each other. In so doing may you bring that light and a gracious seasoning to all people you meet on each days' journeys. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ELW#254 'Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus'

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind. Hand over your heart. Here it comes – love. It shines in the darkness. It lives in humility. It sings in the shadows. It will not cower and cannot be contained.

It was the hope of the saints. It was the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the heart of the Baptist and the courage of Mother Mary. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Love, you lead us home.

Light four candles.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love.

We light a candle for love. May it light the way.

LIGHTING OF WREATH HYMN: ELW#240 "Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah"

GREETING (ELW p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE (ELW p. 203) (*meaning "Lord Have Mercy"*)

1. **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**
2. **Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**
3. **Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)

1. **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**
2. **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**
3. **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD! God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome did not know Paul. In this letter, Paul introduces himself as an apostle. These apostles were appointed to share that which they had seen, that which they had heard, and that which they had touched with their own hands as followers of Jesus. Paul's mission was to bring this good news to the world and to nurture the obedience of faith as a gift for all nations in order that the holiness of life might again be found in fellowship with God and each other.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord

commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Dan Haugen

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#279 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 206)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope saying God, in your mercy, and responding **hear our prayer.**

Several prayer intercessions are offered...

... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING SONG: WOV#732 'Create in Me A Clean Heart'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Eternal God, you bless us and have promised to provide all we need for life. May we live in fellowship with You, so that in conversation with you each day we may be guided to share your grace and compassion for those among whom we live. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: Instrumental

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us, guide and strengthen us through Your Word and Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#270 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love God . . . and take care of each holy gift of life you meet in each day's journey.
Thanks be to God.