Messiah Messenger

November 2017

Messiah's Mission: *To know Christ and to make Christ known through the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian Education, fellowship, outreach and service.*

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here at Messiah, we follow the 3-year lectionary for our Scripture readings in worship. The lectionary features readings from Matthew's Gospel in Year A (the one we're in now), Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C, with readings from John coming in at different points during each of the 3 years. There are also various readings from the Old Testament and the Epistles, and very often the Old Testament reading echoes a theme in the Gospel reading.

Before the 3 year lectionary came about in the 1960s, churches used a One Year Lectionary. This goes back to well before the time of Luther. The readings for the second Sunday after Easter, for example, would be the same every single year in every single church in the world that followed the lectionary.

I bring these up because we're in November. Every year the church starts the new church year with the coming of Advent in late November/early December. In the old One Year Lectionary, the Sunday before the first Sunday in Advent was called the Last Sunday of the Church Year. The Last Sunday of the Church Year featured 3 readings focused on the end-times:

- The Gospel is Matthew 25:1-13 (The Parable of the Ten Virgins), with its warning, "**Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."** We'll be called to watch by this Gospel in our worship on Sunday, November 12th.
- The Epistle is 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, where we are told **"For you yourselves are fully aware the the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" and "So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."** This Epistle will be read in worship on Sunday, November 19th.
- The Old Testament reading is Isaiah 65:17-25 - we won't hear this in worship, so I want to focus on it here. Those first two readings tell us to stay alert and at the ready for Christ's second coming as we live our lives in this world. But the reading from Isaiah tells us of the joy that is to

be ours when Christ does come again! Here are a few verses to ponder as we await that great day!

""For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind."

"I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days."

"They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them."

"The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord." (Isaiah 65:17-25, selected verses, ESV)

We are blessed to know that the Lord will fulfill his promises in Isaiah when he comes again, and that we will live and serve and rejoice for eternity!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Bartzsch

Messiah Updates and November Events

FALL BACK
Remember that Daylight Savings Time ends on **November 5th at 2 a.m**. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening, November 4th.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Messiah will celebrate Thanksgiving on **Wednesday evening, November 22nd**. Service time is **7 p.m**. Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ for a service of praise and thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. Worship before you leave to spend the next day with your family. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

The Trustees send a big **THANK YOU** to those who joined us on a rainy clean-up day. Thanks to Norda T., Dick and Barbara Wilson and trustees Lee C., Rick D., Mark A., Kevin M., and Carol M. Maybe some others could help with the outdoor projects on a better day. Leaves are yet to fall. Contact Carol Mushong if something could be arranged.

DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS receipt program is being implemented by Parish Service Guild. Proceeds are earmarked for our Messiah Preschool. We are collecting sales receipts from D&W and Family Fare, or any other Spartan Store which gives you a receipt with the words DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS printed at the bottom. For every $150,000.00 we collect, SpartanNash will send us a donation of $1,000.00. We need the whole receipt, but you may black out any personal credit/debit card info. There is a box on the shelving outside the office to put them in, or you may put them in the Hula family church mailbox.

Messiah Updates and November Events Con't.

THANK YOU!

In the hymn

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds," we sing:
We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

Pastor and Shirley wish to express their profound gratitude to all who expressed such loving sympathy upon the death of Pastor's father, Wallace. Your compassionate words, cards, and notes were of great comfort, for they were rooted in the great truth of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. The certainty of the promise of our blessed Savior, "Because I live, you also shall live," were the basis for your expressions of sympathy and hope, and filled our hearts with joy and gladness. We hold you dear in our hearts. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This year we will just be providing them for our church families in need. NECM is not doing Thanksgiving baskets this year. Please see the table **starting in November** for a list of items and the amount needed along with envelopes for monetary donations. Be aware the Christmas list will be out as well. Thank you and GOD's Blessings. Joe and Becky Buss

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

We will furnish CHRISTmas baskets for needy families within our church and from our neighborhood via NECM. You will see the Table set up in the foyer starting in **November**. As usual we will have sign up list of items needed and the amount we need to collect. Please mark off what items you can provide and the amount. There will also be envelopes if you'd like to give a monetary donation.

DELIVERY DRIVERS are needed for the CHRISTmas baskets. We can't do this without your help. Can you give a few hours of your time on **December 16th** to help bring a Holiday meal to a family in need? Please, please sign up at the table. THANK YOU and GOD's blessings!!!! Joe and Becky Buss

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

On **Sunday, November 19th**, all members of the congregation are invited to join in a pot-luck dinner **following the late service**. Bring a main dish plus a salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided. Following the meal, the annual meeting of the voters will be held.

The agenda for the annual meeting includes:

- Staff and board reports
- Election of officers and board members
- Approval of 2018 budget
- Nominations for Michigan District positions

Messiah Updates and November Events Con't.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL DATES Messiah Lutheran Sunday School

Friday, **December 1st 6:00pm – 8:00pm**	All Grades
Saturday, **December 9th 9:30am – 12:00pm**	All Grades, dress rehearsal/pizza party
Sunday, **December 10th Program, during 11:00 service**	We will practice one last time during Sunday school hour

****Pizza Party will be from 11:30am till noon on the 9th. Parent pick up at noon please.**

HELP BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY THIS CHRISTMAS by signing up to order a Poinsettia plant that will be placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas season. Plants cost $6, and come in red, white, or marbled colors. A sign-up sheet is at the welcome center. Orders must be placed by **Sunday, December 10th**. You may take your plant home following the Christmas morning service.

Women's Ministry

PARISH SERVICE GUILD:

The time is approaching for our annual Messiah Cookie Sale, Bazaar, Country Store and Luncheon event: **DATE: Saturday, December 2nd, 2017, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** There are many areas for participation:

1. Vendor tables are still available - non-members $20 and members $10.
2. Crafts - it is not too early to make crafts for our bazaar table.
3. Country Store - we welcome Christmas items for this feature. Collection point: Basement on or near garage sale table. (No clothing please.)
4. Does anyone have a sturdy card table they would like to donate? We welcome tables of comparable size.
5. Frosting of cutout cookies will be **Tuesday, November 28th**, 1 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the fun!
6. Table placement (we'd love to have some MAN power on this item.) Time: **Wednesday, November 29th**, time to be determined
7. Signup sheets will be placed on the Welcome Center for assistance in attending the various tables **AND BAKING COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES!**

If you have any questions, please contact the Bazaar Committee; Tammy Ahrens, Barb Brinkman, Joann Hilton, Carol Mushong or Sandy Ryan.

ATTENTION LADIES!! Are you interested in essential oils? Maybe you're not, but would like to learn about *Essential Oils of the Bible*. Come join us on **Wednesday, November 8th at 10:30** am (in place of CARES) in the upper classroom (parking lot side). A friend of Chris Jost's, Bonnie will be making a presentation and she will have samples and oils available for purchase. Questions? See Daina Bartzsch or call Chris at 616-862-3643.

ALTAR GUILD fall meeting is scheduled for **Saturday**, **November 4th at 9 am**. It is very important that all members, especially the team leaders, attend as we plan for fall activities that are our responsibility. We encourage any member who would like to help with what we do, come to this meeting. No obligations. We offer a unique way for you to serve the Lord. If you have questions, please contact Carol Mushong or just come to this meeting. Please mark your calendar for **Saturday**, **November 4th at 9 am**.

Women's Ministry Con't.

SANDY'S TRADITION will meet for lunch, **11:30 am, on Thursday, November 16th**, at Green Well in Rockford (the old Reds), 8 E Bridge St. Please RSVP to Pat Hoffman (784-5817) by the day before.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE, BAZAAR, COUNTRY STORE, VENDORS AND LUNCHEON - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. Have you marked your calendars? Planned to attend and bring a friend? We welcome homemade cookies (creative cookies sell quickly), candies, etc., and craft items. If you have gently used Christmas items to donate, there will be a marked table in the basement for our Country Store. No clothing, please. Country Store contact persons for the Country Store: Marian Meehleder and Sharon Hula. Bazaar/Craft items, contact person: Judy Gerke. Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center for cookies, volunteers to work at various locations on THE day, also manpower for table arrangements. Cookies to be decorated? Please have them at church by Monday, November 27. (Save a trip and bring 'em on Sunday😄.) Cookie decorating will be done on Tuesday, November 28, at 1 p.m. There are still vendor locations available - contact person: Barb Brinkman. Nonmembers: $20, members $10. We look forward to this annual congregational event and hope to see you there!

From the Parish Assistant's Desk

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Thanks to all the Messiah members who took part in the Festival Chorus for the Michigan's District Reformation 500th Anniversary service! So many folks at Messiah, the district office and across the state and country are grateful for the hard work and dedication you gave to learning the music for this once-in-a-lifetime event. Those who missed the service or would like to experience it again can watch it online at www.youtube.com/user/michiganLCMS!

During November, we'll continue using Lutheran Service Book's Divine Service, Setting Four as our order of worship for communion, with a variety of non-communion service formats. Our new hymn for the end of the church year is "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor," number 534 in LSB. This hymn of praise to Christ our king melds a triumphant British text with a rugged, sturdy tune from Wales. We'll begin singing it in worship on **Sunday, November 12th**.

The choir schedule for November is as follows:

Sunday, 11/5	Senior Choir	**8:30 am**
Sunday, 11/12	Rhythm Section & Singers	**8:30 & 11:00 am**
Sunday, 11/19	Senior Choir	**11:00 am**
Wed. 11/22	Senior Choir	**7:00 pm**

Interested in joining one of our musical groups? Contact Rick Krueger for details – or just come to a practice and try us out! Here are the details:

- Senior Choir practices are **Wednesdays at 7 pm** in the sanctuary on **November 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th**. A special practice for the Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on **Tuesday, November 21st at 7 pm**. During Advent, starting on **December 6th**, Senior Choir will practice for one hour following Wednesday night Vespers.
- Rhythm Section & Singers will practice on **November 1st & 8th at 8:30 pm** in the sanctuary. Practices last 30-45 minutes.

Other Items

LUTHERAN EDUCATION 5-YEAR FIXED RATE NOTE: For the 2017-18 school year Church Extension Fund is offering a promotional interest rate of 4% over their current published interest rate on a 5-Year Fixed Rate Note. This investment is limited to Michigan Lutheran School students currently enrolled in grades K-12 when they open a new Lutheran Education 5-Year Fixed Rate Note. This promotional note is only available during the September 2017-June 2018 school year and is limited to one investment per student ($100 min/$1000 max) To learn more and for an application to invest visit www.mi-cef.org or call 800-242-3944.

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS - "Worship for Shut-Ins" is a Lutheran television 30 minute worship service with no commercials or repeats. It is not a tape of a Sunday morning service, but a special taping done just for the viewer at home. Worship for Shut-Ins airs locally **Sunday mornings at 11:30 am** on Comcast (channel 21), Charter (channel 2), AT&T (channel 54), and DirecTV (channel 377). Services may also be viewed online at www.worshipforshutins.org

November 5, 2017 – All Saints' Day Observed
"From Here to Eternity" - Sermon Text: 1 John 3:1-3

November 12, 2017 – Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
"Ready With His Oil" - Sermon Text: Matthew 25:1-13

November 19, 2017 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
"His Precious Gift" - Sermon Text: Matthew 25:14-30

November 26, 2017 – Last Sunday of the Church Year
"It's All Over" - Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Those with immediate prayer concerns: **Sue Tolhurst**, **Ramona Simon**, **Bonnie McWatters** and **Pat Ball** friend of Joe & Becky Buss; **Emma Gallevo**, granddaughter of Tom & Karen Driscoll; **Rita VanEtten**, **Jean Hulst**, friends of Bill & Rita VanEtten; **Bill Brinkman**, **Bernice Washinifski**, friend of Judy Spencer; **Wayne Hrabovsky** and **Wilma Mitchell** friend of Victor VanEtten; **Pennye Hart**, sister-in-law of Marcie Merkle; **Judy Spencer**, **Shirley Lang**, **Toni Dells**, friend of Bill & Rita VanEtten; **Cindy Larson**, daughter-in-law of Elaine Jingles; **Brian Markin**, brother-in-law of Joe & Becky Buss; **Correne Cober**, former member; **Elaine Jingles**, **Peter VanLente**, nephew of Judy Spencer; **Bob Mates**, Blind Ministry contact; **Heather Hilton-Lynch**, daughter of Sam & Joann Hilton; **Doug Davis**, brother of Al Davis; **Steffanie Andrus**, daughter-in-law of Colleen Andrus; **Nancy Jackson**, mother of Phil & Sharon Fahling's son-in-law; **Dennis Claypool**, friend of Victor VanEtten and **Dave Merkle**.
- Those with ongoing prayer concerns**: Dawn Feorene**, niece of Elaine Jingles; **Robert Neuman**, brother of Theona Gee; **Paul Garchow**, brother of Pete Garchow; **Gen Abrams**, past Chairman of our Rapid Waters Zone LWML; **Alexis White**, granddaughter of Rev. & Rosy Masih; **Dawn Metivier**, mother of Leah Kearney; **Carol Shick**, friend of Nyha French; **Jessica Santa Clara**; **Kathy Mueller**; **Tina Eikenroth**, friend of Matt VanEtten; **Simon Leavit**, grandson of Bob & Jan Ringel, former members.

IN OUR PRAYERS CON'T.

- Those serving in the military: **Eric Gerke**, grandson of Judy Gerke; **Dan Gerke**, son of Judy Gerke; **Clinton Gibson**, son in law of Bill & Diane Legate; **Randy Tanis**, great nephew of Marcie Merkle, **Jacob Teeple**, grand nephew of Mark & Laura Altemann; **Andrew Feigel**, nephew of Al & Renee Davis; **Joseph Lueders**, nephew of John & Ruth Lueders and **Raymond Bartman**, son of Carla Bartman.
- Our Missionaries: **Pastor Masih** & **Pastor James**.
- For **Tahseen Kanwal** (daughter of Pastor and Rosy Masih) and husband, **Imran**, their children **Rain** and **Trinity** and the twins, **Riley** and **Leslie**. That they are able to remain in safety and good health as refugees in Sri Lanka until the way is made clear for them to join the rest of the family here in the United States.

SERVING YOU . . .

Staff:
Rev. Tom Bartzsch, Pastor
Mr. Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant
Mrs. Sandy Goodlander, Office Manager
Mrs. Mildred Rathbun, Office Assistant
Mrs. Vonda Smestad, Pre-school Director