

December 2021
Messiah Messenger

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran
Church and Preschool - Daycare

465 Pond Path

E. Setauket, NY 11733

(631)751-1775

www.messiahny.com

e-mail: info@messiahny.com

Rev. Nils Niemeier - Pastor

Rev. Steve Unger - Associate Pastor

Mr. Thom Brownworth - Deacon

A Note from Pastor Niemeier



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,
*"Where the sun comes up, about 10 in the
mornin',
And the sun goes down, about 3 in the day.
And you fill your cup with whatever bitter
brew you're drinkin'
And you spend your life, just thinkin' of
how to get away."*

Darrell Scott, "You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive"

Darrell Scott's ballad of love and loss in the "deep dark hills of Eastern Kentucky" doesn't sound like something that would describe north-central Long Island, but my first experience of a real Long Island winter last year brought the above lyrics to mind. Being an hour into the Atlantic Ocean beyond the mainland, the wintertime sun begins falling not long after 3 PM here in Setauket, with sunset coming an hour and a half later. When the light is like this, it's completely dark, midnight dark, by 6 PM. Hours that were once full of daylight just a few months before are now plunged in tangible darkness. And we long for the sun to return again.

It's fitting that the season of Advent falls during this time of real seasonal darkness for those of us living in the northern hemisphere, as Advent looks to Jesus' coming into the world as the light of the world. It is as if all of creation reenacts the waiting for His coming. As the Prophet Isaiah wrote: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2, NKJV). The world around us is plunged into a physical darkness that mimics the darkness in which God's people formerly sat as they awaited their Deliverer. And so, we, too, wait in the darkness for the

light of Christ to shine out again at Christmas. And like the person "thinking of how to get away" in Scott's song, we long for our final salvation as we wait in the darkness of this present, sin-sick world for His second coming again at the end of time, when the day will forever break and the shadows flee away. And just as we have the promise that after the solstice, the days lengthen and the sun returns, so too do we cling to the promise that our Redeemer is coming back to us to make all things new.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season,

In His Grip,

Pastor Nils Niemeier



THE ANGEL GIVING TREE IS UP!

The Stewardship is sponsoring an "Angel Giving Tree". The tree is in our Church Narthex and decorated with angel ornaments.

Members are asked to take an angel from the tree and purchase the item on it. If you are unable to come to church you can stop by during the week or contact the church office and we will pick an angel for you.

So, won't you be an angel and share the living love of Christ this Christmas with a family in need. Please return all unwrapped gifts to the church by **DEC 5th**.



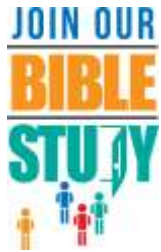
Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, Dec 5 at 10:30 am** following the 9 am service.



All are invited to the Children's Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, Dec 19th at 1 pm.**



1 - Angela Maggio **3** ~ Tess Young, Spencer Woolley
4 ~ Lee Ann Sickler, Austin Wissing **5** ~ Jessica Bell
6 ~ Brian McGinley, Charlie Koehler, Rich Marcinowski,
 Connor McGinley **7** ~ Jerome Varvaro
13 ~ Chase Wolanski, Holly McGuire, Anjali Sickler
14 ~ Abigail Frank **17** ~ John Blasco
18 ~ Karen Spitz, Nancy McCabe, Christopher Noakes,
19 ~ Robbie Baguio **21** ~ Karen Underwood Ashley Lyman
22 ~ Christine Liguori **26** ~ Susan Edelman
27 ~ Joseph Mackey, Madison Calvanese, Ryan Gudelinis
29 ~ Kylie Smith **30** ~ Kristina Evans, John Iaccino
31 ~ Sophia Florio, Delaney Florio



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We will be starting 1 Kings in January!

Join Pastor Niemeier on

Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm

as we read through the whole of Scripture together.

This class is still being presented as a hybrid class, for in-person and online instruction using Zoom.

Please call the church office to get the codes to join!

ELECTRONIC GIVING



FaithStreet provides you with the ability to make your pledges/offerings online to support Messiah's various programs and ministries. FaithStreet allows you to give one-time, weekly, monthly or twice per month via your bank account, credit card,

and debit card (just like you pay your utility bills). You can make your donations online or via text. It's safe and secure, supported by the most robust and up-to-date security available. This will help the church keep a consistent flow of funds throughout the year. To give via FaithStreet, go to our website, www.messiahny.com. In the upper right-hand corner click on MORE, scroll to DONATION and it will take you to the link for Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account.

Musicians & Singers Wanted for 9:00 AM Service Ensemble and Church Choir!

Have musical gifts you'd like to share? Looking to learn more about church music?

Contact Chris Cuvier or Pastor Niemeier if interested!

Will count as community service hours for school.



Wednesdays during Advent

Dec 1st 8th, 15th and 22nd

7 pm

Dec 19th ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

9 am

10:45 am

1 pm Sunday School Pageant

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 pm - Family Candlelight Service

8:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Worship

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY, Dec 26th

10:00 am Worship

We need dark bath and hand towels,
Ivory Soap Bars, nail clippers,
toothbrushes with covers and large
combs. to complete our Luther World
Relief Kits. Thank you for all your help.



The Altar Guild will meet on
**Wednesday, December 1st at
1:30 pm** in the Council Room to
finalize the plans for Advent and
Christmas.

The members of the Altar Guild will
meet on Saturday, **December 18th at 12:00 pm** to adorn
the Sanctuary and Narthex with poinsettia plants in
anticipation of the celebration of the birthday of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, God's Son. **We warmly welcome any and all
who would like to participate in this task**, a special way to
prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus into the world on
Christmas. See you there?

Soli Deo Gloria!! Ruth Hawkins for the Altar Guild



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday night Women's Bible
Study will resume after New Year's.
Topic to be decided. Watch the
newsletter, church bulletin, and
website for an announcement in
January.

Please use this break to attend midweek Advent happenings.



The Altar Guild will once again decorate the Narthex and other areas of the church with poinsettias during the Christmas season. We will obtain the poinsettia plants from the florist so they will be all nearly the same size. Anyone who wishes to purchase a poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one or in

celebration of an event may do so. We will publish the names of the donator and the loved one in an insert during the Christmas Season. Those who purchase a plant may take it home after service on Dec 25th. The price of each plant will be \$12. **Please place your orders by SUNDAY DECEMBER 6th**

Thanks for your participation and help with our Christmas decorating ~ we appreciate your help and your love. In His Service ~ The Altar Guild

Order form for Christmas Poinsettia Plants \$12 each

Name: _____

Number of Plants _____

In loving memory of: _____

In joyful celebration of: _____

I will pick up my plant after church of Dec 25th _____

I wish to have my plant for distribution to shut-ins and residents of Nursing homes _____

Amount enclosed _____

Please place order form in Offering Plate or in Church office with cash or check payable to Messiah Lutheran Church.



**Easy way to help
Messiah
Fundraise this holiday season.**

You shop online through **Amazon Smile**? They donate a small percentage of your purchase to our school.

All you need to do is shop on Amazon like you normally would, and Amazon donates a small percentage of your purchase to the organization of your choice. For all your holiday shopping, go to smile.amazon.com and search 11-6035375.

Find Us on Social Media!



On the Messiah Facebook page, you will find information about church services, COVID-9 updates, as well as devotionals and meditations.



And don't forget to subscribe to Messiah **YouTube** page! Here you'll find archived videos of streamed services, messages from the pastors, devotionals and other video resources.

Follow our pages today! You can find links to both our Facebook and YouTube pages on our website, www.messiahny.com.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Boy Scouts and all members of the church who came to help clean up the church grounds. Thank you to the Garden Club for hosting it! All the outside and inside windows were cleaned, bushes trimmed, leaves raked. We hope to do another clean up in the Spring!





GOD SENT US A SAVIOR

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
so God sent us a Savior

~ Roy Lessin

Piano Lessons
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Mark S Jones
 Agency Owner
 Mark S Jones Ins Agency Inc.

1109 Hallock Ave
 Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Office 631-928-8222
 Fax 631-331-1490
 marksjones@allstate.com
 www.allstateagencies.com/062152
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