

December 2022

Messiah Messenger

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Rev. Nils Niemeier – Pastor
Rev. Stephen Unger - Associate Pastor
Thom Brownworth - Deacon

PASTOR NIEMEIER'S NOTE:

My dear Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,

During this season of Advent, we yet once more find ourselves in a period of waiting and expectation. The days are shortening, the night is lengthening. The Winter Solstice, the Shortest Day, will soon arrive, when we will only have 9 hours and 42 minutes of daylight here in Setauket. And it's on darkening days like this that my inner woodchuck desires to curl up and crawl into a burrow and sleep until the light and warmth comes again.

I often think about hibernating creatures during the time of Advent. When the warmth begins going out of the world, their rhythms begin to change. They put on fat, their metabolisms slow, they find burrows, they enter states of torpor. Some of them shut their bodies down to states of near-death. And they wait for warmer times, when the sun climbs higher in the sky and stays there longer, when the snow recedes and the earth becomes lush and green again and the dead trees blossom into new life. Then they, too, awaken and emerge from their sleeping places to play in the sunlight.

Often, the physical world reflects metaphysical realities. The lengthening of the darkness at this time of year in the northern hemisphere reminds us of the time when God's people awaited the coming of his Messiah, when, as Isaiah says, the people walked in darkness. They waited for his coming with longing, hoping and praying that the light would come, and it did when Christ came into the world. For "[the] people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone" (Isaiah 9:2). As John reminds us, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5). Now we find ourselves waiting again for

the light to return, though our world is not dark like theirs was, for Christ is with us even now. We have seen the light and know the light and the light has not left us. But we still await Christ's second and final coming by remembering his first and the waiting that preceded it. Like those creatures that hibernate, we wait in simulated darkness during Advent for the light of Christ to arrive at Christmas, just as the world waits for the darkness and cold of winter to give way to the warmth and light of spring.

Soon the day will break, and the shadows will flee away!

In His grip,
Pastor Nils Niemeier

TRUSTEES RECEIVE A HELPING HAND

Have you found it easier to park lately? If you have, it's probably because the spaces in the parking lot have been restriped. The last time the parking spaces were lined was in 2015 and since then the lines had virtually disappeared, making it a little difficult to park properly. The Trustees were planning to reline the parking lot spaces, when we were approached by Craig Biazzo, a member of Boy Scout Troop 215, working to achieve the rank of Life Scout. In order for him to become a Life Scout, among other requirements, he had to direct a service project. He asked if we would allow him to restripe the parking lot and submit this task as his service project. After Craig received approval from his troop leader, we met again with him and his father to review the specifics of the project.

The work was done on November 5th. The Trustees provided the striping machine, the paint was donated by a family of the congregation and the Boy Scouts provided the labor. There was no cost to Messiah.

Thank you to Craig and his troop members for a job well done.

Thank you to all who participated in Trunk or Treat! A wonderful time was had by all,...



Thank you to all who attended Ladies' Night Out!



Remember, all ladies are welcome to attend Ladies' Bible Study on Thursday evenings – watch for upcoming studies!



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

GARDEN CLUB FALL CLEANUP

Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10:00 am



The Garden Club is holding a clean up day of the church grounds on Saturday, December 3rd starting at 10:00 am. Please help us out with whatever time you can give. Bring your leaf blowers, trimmers, rakes, gloves, etc. If you don't like doing outdoor work, you can help clean up inside the church. The Garden Club will provide food and drinks. Hope to see you there!

Basket Raffles



Basket Raffle!

We will pull raffles by Dec 4th (just in time for St. Nicholas Day!).



THE ANGEL GIVING TREE IS UP!

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring an "Angel Giving Tree". Please take an Angel, buy the item listed on the back, and bring it back to the church. Please leave the **unwrapped** gift under the tree by Sunday, December 4th. All items will be going to those in need. Thank you!



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, Dec 4 at 11:00 am** following the 9:30 am service.

Please note: there is only 1 service that Sunday at 9:30 am.



*Christmas
Pageant*

Messiah Sunday School – It's time to spread the good news!

We are looking for elementary and middle school students to participate in our Christmas Pageant. Middle school students are strongly encouraged to participate! There are speaking parts, singing parts, big parts, and little parts!

Rehearsals will take place the 3 Saturdays before Christmas, as well as extra rehearsals during Sunday School.

If you are interested, please text Josie Susinno as soon as possible (631) 346-1136. Thank you!!!

Attention All Youth of Messiah!

Holiday Movie Night and PJ Party



Join us for a Movie Night
Friday, Dec 16th 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Open to all youth!

Start the Christmas Season off with
a showing of Elf!

Dress in your favorite holiday PJ's
and, if you wish, bring a blanket or

something comfortable to sit on.

There will be cocoa and cookies!

Messiah Youth Council



Attention Youth!

We need your voices!

We are looking to form a Youth
Council at Messiah, to be run by
youth leaders. If you are interested
in joining this group and

developing your leadership skills, please contact Liann

Dennis at (631) 413-5476.



Wednesdays during Advent

10:00 am – Matins

6:00 pm – Soup Supper/Craft/Worship

Nov 30th – Advent Wreaths

Dec 7th – The Jesse Tree

Dec 14th – Decorating the Church

Dec 21st – TBA!

Sunday, Dec 4th ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship

11:00 am Congregation Meeting

Sunday, Dec 11th ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Worship

11:00 am Worship

Dec 18th ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Worship

11:00 am Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 pm - Family Candlelight Service

8:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Worship



Do you have a loved one away at school or in the military?

Living away from home can be a lonely experience. Please allow us the opportunity to reach out to your student/service member with words of encouragement, spiritual resources, and care packages. We can even help to find local churches in their community, so that they can continue in fellowship with other believers and maintain a strong foundation in the Christian faith.

Please contact the church office for details.



Sunday School is offered between services at 9:45 for both Adults and Children.



We are looking for Sunday School teachers and substitutes. It's a wonderful opportunity to help our children learn about our faith. If interested, please speak with

Liann Dennis or Pastor Niemeier.



The **Lutheran Women's Mission League** needs your help!

LWML will meet Friday, December 16th at 3:00 pm. Please join us as we assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief Care Packages.

We need the following items:

- Bar soap (Ivory or Dove)
- Dark bath towels
- Sleepers (6-24 month size)
- T-shirts (6-24 month size)
- Baby hoodies or sweaters (6-24 month size)
- Receiving blankets
- 70 college ruled notebooks
- Sturdy combs

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY



Midweek Bible Study is on hiatus until January. Please continue reading the Book of Job! If you'd like to join us, please contact Pastor Niemeier.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

As we have finished our study of Philippians, we will be taking a short break during the Advent Season.

Please keep an eye on the announcements for details of events and future study.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

During Advent, Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday at 9:45 am. All 7th and 8th grade students may attend.

Please check the Calendar and/or Announcements for class dates.

Altar Guild



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the Council Room.

Please consider joining the Altar Guild!

Please see the Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office for more details.

+ *Soli Deo Gloria* +
Ruth Hawkins for the Altar Guild

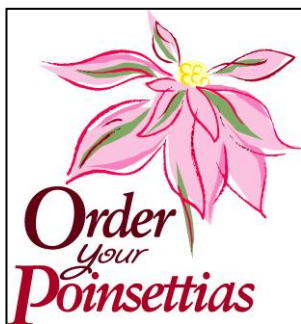


Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers

If anyone wishes to have flowers at the altar, we ask for \$50 for two bouquets, or \$80 for one arrangement, to be displayed on the designated Sunday. You would be able to take those bouquets home after the late service.

Please note: a flower donation envelope must be submitted with your payment, including information to be in the announcements Thank you!



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 December 25th. The price of each plant will be \$12. **Please place your orders by SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th.**

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 on 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.

Find Us on Social Media!



On the Messiah Facebook page, you will find information about church services, health updates, and 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.



SUPPORT MINISTRY AT MESSIAH WITH ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH FAITHSTREET!

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 securely via your bank account, credit card, or debit card (just like you pay your utility bills). You can make your offerings online or via text. This will help the church keep a consistent flow of funds throughout the year. To give via FaithStreet, scan the QR code above or go to our website, www.messiahny.com. In the upper right-hand corner click on **MORE**, click on **ONLINE GIVING/DONATION** and it will take you to the link for Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account with Messiah.



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Your donation helps us keep sending The Messiah
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Our Messenger is delivered to 400 homes in our area
monthly.

Contact the church office at 631-751-1775
for more information.



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