



# MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
--John 1:14

## PASTOR'S PAGE

*(This is an edited version of a blog entry from our recent pilgrimage to Israel.)*

*While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room. --Luke 2:6 -7*

Dear Friends of the Messiah who came to Earth,

**In 320AD Roman Emperor Constantine** issued the Edict of Milan which basically served to make Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire. Shortly after that he sent his mother, Helena, to the Holy Land to find where the foundational events of Christianity took place. In Bethlehem she built the Church of the Nativity over the location she determined to be the place of Jesus' birth. On November 5, our band of 14 pilgrims waited over an hour in line for the privilege of kneeling at a small altar to touch the place where Helena's research said was the birth place of Jesus.

**Think of that.** Think of that some more.

**God came to earth arriving as a helpless infant.** God chose to become one of us. Remember this is the same God who created the heavens and the earth. The God who created sub-atomic particles and the DNA helix and the human brain and the solar system and distant galaxies and black holes, etc. etc. This God beyond our small imaginations and limited minds decided to show up as a baby. Amazing!

**As we left** the Greek Orthodox managed birth site where heaven came down to earth, we walked into a lovely, modern Roman Catholic church. We had to be quiet because we were barging into a Baptism already in progress.

**A beautiful baby girl** dressed in a stunning silk Baptismal gown became a child of God as the water washed over her "*In the name of the Father, and of the Son* (the One who was born right next door), *and of the Holy Spirit.*" What a wonderful reminder that our Lord who arrived as a baby keeps announcing His promises to children of all ages today.

**As we exited that church** we experienced something that is rare in Bethlehem: A rain shower. In this dry, dry land, every drop is a blessing. As that wondrous water washed over us, we were renewed and reminded of the unfailing promises our Lord makes to us in Baptism.

*Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel! (O Little Town of Bethlehem, LBW #41)*

Blessed Advent and Christmas,

*Pastor Scott Peterson*



### Ring and Sing

Messiah's annual Ring and Sing concert will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. Music from adult and children's handbell and chime choirs and vocal groups will be featured Audience hand chime participation for ringing of Christmas carols is also on the program!

### **REMEMBER, REMEMBER, REMEMBER**

There will be just ONE service of worship on Christmas Day,  
Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be at 9:00 am.

*(We do not want anyone to arrive at 11:00 and be disappointed.)*



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

from Mary Ann Stasiak

The University of the South in Seawannee, TN, will hold its 52<sup>nd</sup> Festival of Lessons and Carols during the Advent season this year. This is a lush festival of the Advent season, featured in Southern Living magazine last year. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, a bus will pick us up from Messiah about 1 PM, take us to the campus for the 5 PM service, and return us to Messiah by about 8 PM – a great event with great folks and no driving! A boxed meal will be provided. The cost will be \$35 per person, and we are limited to 52 seats. If you are interested in going to the service with us, please make your reservation with Mary Ann Stasiak.

Cornelia Tegtmeier-Rottach has graciously agreed to host a **Specialty Christmas Cookie class** on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Parish Hall kitchen, 10-2. The cost is \$15 per person. Please make your reservation with Mary Ann Stasiak.

**New news:** We will **NOT** have the Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange in Classrooms 11/12 at 2 PM on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, but will be announced shortly. Please watch for it!

**International Advent Fellowships** are back in December! Come and share foods, traditions, and music of our heritages for this Christmas season (all are after 2<sup>nd</sup> service in Parish Hall):

- December 4<sup>th</sup>, Swedish Advent Fellowship
- December 11<sup>th</sup>, Italian Advent Fellowship
- December 18<sup>th</sup>, American “Southern” Advent Fellowship

Please see recipes and sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center – we need help with music (CDs) and decorations for all of these fellowships, and food for the Swedish Fellowship – food will be provided for the Italian and Southern Advent Fellowships.

**Bridge Club** meets on Dec 9th this month, starting at 7:30 PM.

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann Stasiak.

Dates for the calendar:

- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 AM – 2 PM, Specialty Christmas Cookie Class with Cornelia, Parish Hall kitchen
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 -8 PM, Bus trip to Suwannee Festival of Carols and Lessons
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, Swedish Advent Fellowship, 12 noon Parish Hall
- December 11<sup>th</sup>, Italian Advent Fellowship, 12 noon Parish Hall
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, American “Southern” Advent Fellowship, Noon Parish Hall

## December Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship WOV = With One Voice  
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship LS = Lord's Supper

### Sundays at 8:30am

**Dec. 4** Chicago Folk w/LS  
**Dec. 11** WOV Service-Word/Prayer  
**Dec. 18** LBW Setting 1 w/LS

### Sundays at 11:00am

**Dec. 4** LBW Setting 1  
**Dec. 11** ELW Setting 1 w/ LS  
**Dec. 18** WOV Service of Word/Prayer

**Dec. 25 Christmas morning ~ 9:00 am Lessons and Hymns**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY**

### Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship

- **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm ~ December 7, 14, & 21**

*Holden Evening Prayer* Service with meditations on the dreams in the Christmas story in the Gospel of Matthew

- **December 14** Children's Christmas program

Advent services of worship are at 7 pm on Wednesdays, using the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy. Everyone is invited to supper served before the Advent Services, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Advent offering this year will be divided between *The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center* and *ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala)*.

### **DREAMING OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS**

Did you know there are five (5) dreams in the Christmas story as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew? These dreams will be the subject of the meditations at the mid-week Advent services of worship.

### **Christmas Eve Services at 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm**

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### ***December 25 Christmas Day Service of Worship***

**ONE SERVICE ONLY 9:00 a.m. - Lessons & Hymns ONE SERVICE ONLY**

### ***Our Missionary Pastor Amanda is Coming!***

On December 18<sup>th</sup> will be Pastors Amanda Olson de Castillo and Horatio Castillo will be with us from the ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala). They will lead an adult forum during the Sunday School hour and Pastor Amanda will preach at both services.



## **LIFE PASSAGES**

This newsletter feature announces significant transitions in the life of our community of faith. Birth, Death, Baptism, Graduation, Confirmation, Job Change, Relocation, Engagement, Marriage, or any other life passage you would like announced will be included. Contact Outreach Assistant Claire Strand.

**BIRTH:** *You knit me together in my mother's womb... Psalm 139:13*

- Diane Cline announces the birth of a great granddaughter, Sora Leigh Sampson, on October 30th. Proud parents are Marine Sgt. Robert and Denise Sampson of Camp Lejeune, NC.

**Deaths:** *Remember I am with you always to the end of the age Matthew 28:20*

- Randolph Peterson, father of Pastor Scott Peterson, passed away on October 28, in Sioux Falls, SD. He was 94.
- Marguerite Stogner, mother of Marcie Emerson, passed away on November 27, in Greensboro, NC. She was 101.

## **OUTREACH NEWS from Janell Zesinger**

Looking for a gift for your Aunt Florence? Your Mother-in-Law who has everything?

Before you head to the shopping mall this holiday season, please stop by Messiah's Giving Mall outside the Parish Hall. Here you can purchase a gift to aid those in need throughout our community and the world.

The ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers many different ways to honor friends and loved ones with gifts that will go on to make a difference in the world. With more than 50 different giving options--from ten little chicks to help a family escape poverty to a scholarship to help a young leader attend seminary--there's something for everyone on your list.

You may also choose a gift to support Messiah's own local and global ministries through Messiah's Gifts for Mission. Help provide lunch or school supplies for children across the world, or disaster assistance for families in our own community.

You will be given a card to tell friends and loved ones about the gift that you have made in their honor.

And don't forget our Angel Tree to support Downtown Rescue Mission with gifts for children in need this holiday season.

# Youth Zone

~Lauren Gray, Director of Youth Ministries [youth\\_director@mlutheran.org](mailto:youth_director@mlutheran.org)

## National Youth Gathering:

We have 11 youth signed up to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering taking place next summer, July 17-22, in New Orleans! We are looking forward to having a great trip and getting the opportunity to serve and grow at this gathering.

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Comforter's will meet on Tuesday's December 6th and 13th @10:00 A.M. We will resume meeting on January 3rd. Thank you to all who have supported us this year. Without your support we would not be able to do the work we do for Lutheran World Relief.

Annette Joens for the Comforter's Ladies.

## TWO LARGE THANK YOU'S

Thank you for the outpouring of prayers, flowers, memorial gifts, cards, emails, and personal expressions of condolence at the death of my father, Randolph Peterson. Your concern has comforted and carried us as we grieve his passing. My father and mother raised me in this faith that gives hope even in the face of death. Because our Lord lives God's children are promised new life with Him.

AND...

Thank you for the kind and generous gifts given for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. Your kindness is a great blessing to my family and me. Of those 30 years, 23 have been here at Messiah Lutheran Church. What a privilege it is to be the pastor of this congregation! I hope my work in the coming months will reflect my gratitude and be used for the strengthening of our mission together as *God's People, Reaching Out*.

Pastor Scott and Bonnie Jane Peterson

## **Education News** by Linda Peirce

**Wednesday Night Adult Education Class** "*The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*" by Timothy Keller. John Shriver and Pastor Scott have begun leading this class. During Advent they begin at 6:00 p.m.

**Looking Ahead to Christmas: The Children's Sunday School Christmas Program** "Bethlehem, Nothing Ever Happens Here" will be presented **Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.** Information on scheduled practices is forthcoming. See Gary Garrison for more information.

**Senior Youth grades 9-12** are meeting weekly on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Youth Director Lauren Gray has a varied program planned each week. Eleven Senior Youth have signed up to attend the **ELCA National Youth Gathering** next July 17-22, 2012, in New Orleans. Come to a meeting if you haven't attended in a while and find out what the Youth are planning!

Sincere Thanks to **Mary Brown** for her service to Messiah as the newsletter editor this past year. It was greatly appreciated. We welcome **Beth Gloe** as the new editor beginning in January.

## **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** .....Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?*

*My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

*He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.*

*The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

The Lord provides for all of our needs. Thanks be to God! May we continue to reach out to others in response to God's great love and mercy.

## On Eagle's Wings Advent Breakfast

On December 11, enjoy breakfast in the Fellowship Hall while supporting the On Eagle's Wings ministry. Breakfast will be served before Sunday School. *On Eagle's Wings* provides Bible Schools and ministry to children and adults in remote and isolated areas of



Hall while supporting the On Eagle's Wings ministry. Breakfast will be served before Sunday School. *On Eagle's Wings* provides Bible Schools and ministry to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in Canada.



## Advent Reflections

Remember to check your

mailboxes for this year's *On Eagle's Wings* Advent Reflections.

### **Plants Instead of Poinsettias**

In the past Altar Guild has decorated our Sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas Eve. This year, since we are worshipping in the Parish Hall and short on space, we are asking for \$10 donations to purchase plants for the outside of the building. Donations in memory or honor of loved ones will be listed in the Christmas Eve. Bulletin as usual. You may donate by filling out the form in the bulletin during Advent or by calling the office. Thank you for your participation. We look forward to beautiful landscaping in front of our church and to the return of poinsettias to our new worship space next year.

### **Spaghetti Lunch/Talent Show**

The Spaghetti Lunch and Talent Show will be at 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. If you have a talent to share, contact Lois Graff. Enjoy good food and good fun that will help support missions.



# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  <i>Chris &amp; Jessica Baldrige</i>	2  <i>Tom &amp; Celynn Ballard Thomas, Kate</i>	3  10 am -2 pm Specialty Christmas Cookie Class  <i>Tim &amp; Tracy Bare Jeremy</i>
4  8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 1 6:30 Sr. Youth 2pm Sewanee TN Festival	5  <i>Mark &amp; Lisa Bartel Allison, William,</i>	6  10 am Comforters  <i>Crystal Beard</i>	7  5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45pm Adult Choir <i>David Beier, Brittany</i>	8  Church Council 7pm  <i>Christine Berry</i>	9  7:30 Bridge Club  <i>Corwin &amp; Barbara Bishop</i>	10  <i>Chuck &amp; Lyn Blevins</i>
11  OEW BREAKFAST 8:30am Worship WOV Serv. Word & Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 6:30pm Ring & Sing 6:30pm Sr. Youth	12  <i>Craig &amp; Linda Boehme</i>	13  10 am Comforters  <i>Matt &amp; Kelli Boehme Gwen, Julian</i>	14  5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service w/Children's Christmas Prog. 7:45pm Adult Choir <i>Steve &amp; Debbie Bono Taylor, Michelle</i>	15  8:30 am Morning Study Group  <i>Raymond &amp; Eunjoung Bordenski</i>	16  <i>Mark &amp; Betsy Borseth Nathan, Andrew, Peter</i>	17  <i>Danny Boxx &amp; Christina Coraccio</i>
18  8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship WOV Serv. Word & Prayer 6:30pm Sr. Youth	19  <i>Mike &amp; Linda Boyer</i>	20  <i>Scott Bridge</i>	21  5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45pm Adult Choir <i>Ricky &amp; Rosemary Brooks Jeni</i>	22  <i>Greg &amp; Kerri Brown Alexandra, Savannah</i>	23  <i>Paul &amp; Mary Brown Grace, Madeleine, Byron</i>	24  Christmas Eve Candelight Services 3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm 8:00 pm  <i>James &amp; Bettie Brumley</i>
25  <b>Christmas Day!</b>  ONE SERVICE ONLY  9:00am Worship: Lessons and Hymns  No Sunday School	26  <i>John &amp; Mary Burke</i>	27  <i>Virgil &amp; Susan Burrer</i>	28  <i>Dan &amp; Cheryl Byers Justin, Joshua, Jonathan</i>	29  8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group  <i>Martin &amp; Laurie Campbell Connor</i>	30  <i>Kimberly Carper</i>	31  New Year's Eve  <b>JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE December 18</b>