Messiah Lutheran Church, Fairview Park, Ohio Christmas Eve, 2019

A warm welcome to all who are here this evening, especially our guests. How good to have you with us for our Christmas celebration. God grant that when the service is over we will all go home praising God for the things we have heard and seen.

Guests, please take a moment to fill out one of our visitor cards (you'll find them in the hymnal rack) and place it in the offering plate when it comes around or hand it to an usher. Should you wish to know more about Messiah, please call the church office, 440.331.2405, or visit our website, messiahfairview.org.

About tonight's service: Everything you need to follow and participate is printed in the bulletin. Music for the hymns and carols can be found in the red hymnal at the numbers provided. Large-print bulletins and hearing-assist devices are available as needed. Ask an usher.

Concerning Holy Communion: We confess at Messiah that this is our Lord's gift to his Church, his true body and blood given with bread and wine for us to eat and drink. Here Christ confirms in us the benefits of his death and resurrection. He forgives our sins, refreshes our lives, and promises our salvation. We welcome to the Lord's Table all baptized and communing Christians who share this confidence

About tonight's offering: Unless otherwise designated, all gifts received will support our Lord's work and mission at Messiah in the current church year. Offering envelopes are in the hymnal rack. Gifts can also be offered online or via text message. See page 16 for instructions.

O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

with Carols and Candlelight as we celebrate The Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ December 24, 2019 7 and 10 p.m.

PREPARATION AND ENTRANCE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Silent Night," Charles Ore	Adonai Henderson
(7 PM) "O Holy Night," Carl Deis	
"Joyful, All Ye Nations Rise," Dan R. Fields	Joy Ringers
"O Come, All Ye Children," arr. by Ronald B. Davis and Tammy Waldrop	Joy Ringers
"He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child,"	Dennis Alexander
"Christmas Samba," Craig Curry	Messiah Choir

CONFESSION

Please stand as you are able.

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- When the fullness of time had come God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children (Gal. 4:4-5). With hope and confidence in the Gospel of this holy night, let us confess our sins.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Almighty God, Father of love and compassion:
- We confess that we have disobeyed you in thought, word and deed. We have wandered from your presence. We have loved the works of darkness. We have grieved your heart. For Jesus' sake forgive us. Save us from our sins, and bring us at last to the joy of life eternal.

- *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given." As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- P God grant you the power of the Holy Spirit to hear his Word and believe it, to rejoice in his forgiveness, and to grow into the fullness of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

Follow the cross as it enters from the door near the pulpit

ENTRANCE HYMN"O Come, All Ye Faithful," #283

- O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels:
 O come, let us adore him. . .
- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
 O come, let us adore him. . .
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest:

 O come, let us adore him. . .
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him. . .

GREETING

- P 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.

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo. . .
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo. . .

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- **P** Let us pray:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G** Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FI	RST READING		Isaiah 9:2-7
W	Then the reading concludes—		
A	The Word of the Lord.		
C	Thanks be to God.		
R	ESPONSE"The Peo	ople Th	at in Darkness Sat" (tune: Lobt Gott, ihr Christen)
1	The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.	3	His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord, The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored, The God by all adored.
2	To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n, And on His shoulder ever rests All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.	4	Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone, Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.
SE	ECOND READING	•••••	Titus 2:11-14
W	Then the reading concludes—		
A	The Word of the Lord.		
C	Thanks be to God.		

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

At the procession (#268) --

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:"
- 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild; this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth."
- 3 "These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he: in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds."
- P The Holy Gospel is a reading from the second chapter of St. Luke.
- Glory to you, O Lord!

When the reading concludes—

- **P** This is the Holy Gospel.
- Praise to you, O Christ!

As the procession returns (#268) --

- 4 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest! You turned not from our needs away; how can our thanks such love repay?
- 5 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.
- 6 "Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us the Son has giv'n." With angels sing in pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth!

Please be seated

SERMON

From Psalm 96—

O sing to the LORD a new song; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised. Worship the

LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, 'The LORD is king! He will judge the peoples with equity.' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY "Once in Royal David's City," #269

- Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
- He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

To the words Lord, in your mercy, the congregation responds, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **G** And also with you. (Greet those around you with these or similar words.)

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Use this time for quiet and prayerful reflection on the splendid gifts of God, above all, the one we're about to receive in the blessed sacrament. Here, Christ is present for us as he was for the shepherds. Thanks be to God. If you attend church elsewhere and are wondering whether to receive the sacrament at Messiah tonight, see the invitation on the inside front cover.

Please stand as you are able.

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
 Born is the King of Israel.
- 2 Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!

 Born is the King of Israel

- **A** Let us pray. Heavenly Father,
- You bless us with gifts beyond deserving. Accept these tokens of our thanks and use them for the saving purposes of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts
- **@** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **Q** It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P We give you thanks, Father...with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church now and forever.
- Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Come forward at the ushers' direction and follow the lead of those in front of you. There are two cups, the first to drink from, the second for intinction (dipping the edge of the bread wafer in the wine). Follow your preference. For a gluten-free host, ask the pastor. Those not communing, children or adults, are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Indicate this by crossing your arms as you approach.

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

"What Child Is This" #296

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

 The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

 Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

- Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

When all have returned to their places, please stand.

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in body and soul to life everlasting.
- C Amen.

MEDITATION ON CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PROCLAMATION AND PRAYER

- P Dearly beloved: Jesus Christ, the true light that gives light to every human being has come into the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **G** Thanks be to God!
- The Lord be with you.
- **Q** And also with you.

Let us pray. Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord, and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only begotten Son, born of Mary, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Candles will be lit throughout the congregation as the musical reflection is sung. Acolytes and other servers will offer the flame, with candles upright, to the persons nearest the aisles, who should tilt their unlighted candles to receive it. These persons should then offer the flame to the person next to them, and so on, until all candles in the pew have been lighted. When your candle is lit HOLD IT UPRIGHT, and let your neighbor tilt the unlighted candle into yours.

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

"Peace, Peace," Fred Bock (Messiah Choir)...... leading into "Silent Night, Holy Night!" #281

Choir: Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all.

This is a time for joy, this is a time for love,

Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 round you virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from your holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

Go with the Grace of God from God's own heart, peace from the + Child in the manger, and strength from the Holy Spirit. Great blessings for you and all people, tonight and forever.

G Amen.

Please extinguish your candle; continue to hold it as we sing the last hymn, allowing the wax to harden.

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

- Choir only
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain
- **A** Go in Peace! Christ is born! Tell it on the mountain!.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

+ + +

SERVING THIS EVENING

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Seth C. Bridger
Preaching Minister	The Rev. Dr. Jerome E. Burce
Assisting MinistersPaula Mickan, Nancy Ric	chter (7 pm); Ron Coulter, Paula Mickan (10 pm)
Communion Assistants James Quayle, Christa	Turnbull (7 pm); Joe King, Kent Skurkey (10 pm)
Lectors	Snyder (7 pm); Joe King, Lindsay Rados (10 pm)
Director of Music Ministries	
EnsemblesJoy Ringers (Directed by Ruth King)	and Messiah Choir (Directed by Connie Triplett)
Instrumentalists	Trumpet: Tim Shaffer, Adonai Henderson; Trombone: David Betts; Tuba: Sam Gmetro;
Altar GuildTiffany Advani, Marilyn Edwa	ards, Maria Geier, Debbie Luekens, Diane Paton, Laura Schwartz-Gaydos

Acolytes	Kaitlyn Carlin, Adam Digney, Evan Thiel, Luke Thiel (7 pm)
	Evan Thiel, Luke Thiel, Gavin Waugaman (10 pm)
Deacons	Ray Durban, Raffee Johns (7 pm); Sid Gator, Bob Trapp (10 pm)
Ushers	Craig Jernigan, Dana Quayle, Aubrey Thiel, Mike Thiel (7 pm); Gerhard Budaker, Ken Pillivant (10 pm)
Trustee	Matt Gill



THE POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR DISPLAY ARE PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD WITH GRATEFUL THANKS FOR –

The Wise/Albers Families by Bruce and Sylvia Albers
Our Third Christmas at Messiah by the Bridger Family
Frank & Mildred Claycomb and Elinor Burce by the Burce Family
My Parents Marjorie & Roy Walker, Sr. by Rita Gadus
My Sister June Schultz by Rita Gadus
Felipa F. Romo (Mother) by the Geier Family
Ignacio Romo (Father) by the Geier Family
Our Parents by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway
To the Glory of God by The Rev. Mrs. Bruce Hathaway
Our parents, Harriet and Bob Kraemer by Barbara, Jim, Beth and Patty
Our Parents and Grandparents by Joe, Ruth and Sarah King
Eleanor & Reinhold Leske by Terri Leske

Jane, Bill & Jeff Luekens by Debbie Luekens

Tom Filippou by Debbie Luekens

Mickie McDonald-MacKeigan

by John & Dianne McDonald and Brenden MacKeigan

John & Billie McFadden by the McFadden Family

Fran & Jane Pieper by the McFadden and Neumann Families

George Metevelis by Martie Metevelis

Don Moeller by Wanda, Carol, Donna, Tim, Eric and Ryan

Pastor Erling Helland and Jane Malone Morgan by Pastor Ron & Dorothy Morgan

Carl, Ruth and Nancy Neumann by the Neumann Family

My Parents Julia & Mike Negray by Ken Negray

Joseph & Dorothy Nuessle by Joseph Nuessle and Karen Watts

Richard & Arline Watts by Joseph Nuessle and Karen Watts

Larry Paton and Ruth & Andy Kostur by Brad, Diane, Ally, Greg & Courtney Paton

Loved Ones by Frank & Ellen Petak

Loved Ones by Dorothy Raum

Peter & Theresa Szeltner by John & Heidi Szeltner

Loved Ones by Steve and Christa Turnbull

The Rev. John F. Uhle by the Uhle Family

Rejoicing for Emerson's health one year post heart transplant by the Waugh Family

John & Irma Pugel by the O'Malley and Waugh Families

Robert, Patricia & Scott Waugh by the Waugh Family

Carl J. and Carl R. Weber by the Weber Family

Dorothy Yesko and Josephine Davila by The Yesko Family

Carl and Dorothy Petri by John and Joni (Petri) Zehnder

Susan Westcott by her Friends

Christmas Week at Messiah!				
Dec. 25	10 am	Christmas Day Festival Eucharist		
Dec. 26	All Day	Church & School Offices Closed		
Dec. 26	6 - 8:00 pm	Laundry Love & Caroling @ Leo's Laundromat		
Dec. 28		NO Contemporary Service		
Dec. 29	8:30 & <u>10 am</u>	Holy Communion (No Education Hour)		
Dec. 31	7 pm	New Year's Eve Service		
Jan. 1	All Day	Church & School Office Closed		
Jan. 5	8:30 & <u>11 am</u>	Holy Communion (No Education Hour)		

Thanks be to God this Christmas...

...for Christ our Savior, and for another wonderful response to special requests for help this Christmas. Children served by Building Hope in the City and Kids Church got presents; moms and dads were able to warm their little ones with new hats, gloves and mittens; and food was donated to neighborhood organizations. To all who gave, thank you!

First Bible Class for 2nd Graders

Parents and second graders are invited to attend three sessions of a First Bible Class, led by Deaconess Jeanette Rebeck, on Sunday, January 12, 19 and 26 from 9:50-10:40 am in the second grade classroom. Bibles will be presented to students on Sunday, Jan. 26, at the 11 am worship service. Please RSVP so we can reserve a Bible for your child at 440-331-2405 or email at church@messiahfp.org.

Baptism? For My Children? For Me?

Are you interested in exploring baptism as a possible gift for your children, or even for yourself? If so, Messiah School and Church is offering two opportunities next month to learn more. The first is on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m. The second is the next day, Jan. 22, at 3:45 p.m. We have also set aside Wednesday, Feb. 12, as a day for baptism within the Messiah School community. To learn more, speak with Principal Helen Casselberry or with either of our pastors.

Church Office Hours

The offices at Messiah Lutheran Church will be closed Dec. 24 - 26 and New Year's Day. In the event of an emergency, call Pastor Seth at 513-335-2882; otherwise, please leave a voicemail at 440-331-2405.

Messiah School Open House

January 26; 1 – 4 pm

Invite a friend to our open house on Sunday, January 26 from 1 – 4 pm. See what a joyful, challenging education can mean for your world-changing student. Our preschool, kindergarten and first grade classrooms may fill up quickly, so tell your friends to apply early. Scholarships are available. Open house registration is encouraged, but not required. Call 440-331-6553 or email school@messiahfp.org to register.

Inquirer's Class (New Members)

Interested in learning more about Messiah? A 5-week class has been designed to guide those interested in being received into membership here at Messiah Lutheran. Each class begins at 7 pm and concludes at 8 pm. Classes will meet Tuesdays; January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11.

Questions? Want to sign up? Contact Pastor Burce at jburce@messiahfp.org, Pastor Seth at sbridger@messiahfp.org, or the church office at (440)331-2405.

For Online Giving To Messiah

Messiah's website, <u>www.messiahfairview.org</u> offers a way to contribute online. Look for the "Donation" tab at the top of any page on the site. Clicking on it will take you to a secure giving page supplied and managed by Vanco Services, through Wells Fargo; when giving online, consider using the electronic check option.

Explore the Word this Winter

Messiah offers pastor-led classes for adults on Wednesday mornings and evenings and on Sunday morning too. Our current topics—

- Wednesday morning: Jesus' Parables (Resumes January 15)
- Wednesday evening: St. Matthew's Gospel (Begins January 15)
- Sunday morning: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (Resumes January 12)

2020 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2020 offering envelopes outside the church office.

Save the Date

January 12 January 12	First Bible Class Begins 2nd Sunday/Education Hour
January 21	Resumes "Exploring Baptism" @ 6 pm
January 22	"Exploring Baptism" @
	3:45 pm
January 26	Messiah School Open House
	@ 1- 4 pm
February 25	Shrove Fest
February 26	Ash Wednesday
April 5	Holy Week Begins
April 12	Easter Sunday
May 9	Messiah 5K Fun Run/Walk
May 30	Messiah Golf Outing @
	Forest Hills Golf Course,
	Elyria

Text to Give

Simply text your donation amount to **855-913-1744**. You will receive a text back with a quick link to register (name, credit card number, email for receipt purposes). Once you register, you can text to give without this registration process. It takes 30 seconds to register and 10 seconds to type a donation. You are welcome to do this during the offering or from home; text to give works every day of the week!

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Direct Your 2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Messiah Church & School

If you are a Thrivent member you may have Choice Dollars to direct to Messiah Church & School. Choice Dollars are free to members and provide an opportunity to give back to a charitable organization. It's a gift that costs you absolutely nothing. Messiah is registered as one of the many charities in this program. Log into your Thrivent account or call (800)847-4836. This is free money for Messiah Church & School and is likely already sitting in your account waiting to be donated. If you need additional help, call Darlene Waugh at 440-331-2405.

ShroveFest is Coming! February 25, 2020 We Need Your Help

Homemade Stuffed Cabbage Making Party Dates: Mark your calendars for this fun, fellowship event. We use 350 lbs. of cabbage, 200 lbs. of ground pork and special seasonings to make 1,100 cabbage rolls.

Boiling Cabbage Leaves:

Thursday, January 16

Making Stuffed Cabbage Rolls:

Friday, January 17

Sign up on the large volunteer board outside the church office or contact Darlene Waugh with any questions, at dwaugh@messiahfp.org or 440-331-2405