

Messiah Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve, 2021
5 p.m.



Merry Christmas!

To our Guests: Welcome! Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this evening and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The coronavirus infection continues to threaten people who have not been vaccinated and some who are fully vaccinated. In our determined care for each other, please follow these rules:

- If you arrived with a cough, fever, sniffles or other symptoms of a respiratory infection, please say a quiet prayer, excuse yourself, and go home.
- All services are “mask-optional” for people who have been vaccinated. Go without one if you wish. Wear one if you wish.
- If you haven’t been vaccinated, please be sure to wear a mask for your own safety and as way of caring for the people around you.
- Singing is permitted at all services, though we urge you to sing quietly.
- Continue to observe social distancing rules.
- Continue for the time being to sit only in marked pews. Use your judgment on how close you wish to be to people at the other end. Listen kindly to their concerns if they have any.
- Continue to share the Peace with a nod, a bow or a wave of the hand. No handshakes or hugs yet.
- At communion we will continue to use the pouring chalice and individual cups. The pastors will mask when they consecrate the elements and wear a glove to distribute the host.

**A Christmas Celebration for Children
and their Families
December 24, 2021
5 p.m.**

Prelude

“Angels We Have Heard on High,” Jerry Ray

Song

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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:

Refrain O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Call to Worship

P Greetings in the name of Jesus,
C **The Savior of the World**
P Joy to the world!
C **Joy, joy, joy!**
P Joy to the world!
C **Hope, Hope, Hope is born!**
P Let every heart prepare Christ room.
C **Let heaven and nature sing!**
P Let every heart prepare Christ room.
C **Let heaven, let heaven and nature sing!**

Lighting the Candles

A Tonight, we light the four candles of Advent waiting. We light one candle for the people who waited for hundreds of years for God's Messiah. We light one candle for Mary and Joseph waiting for Jesus to be born. We light one candle for all the waiting we have done getting ready for this night. We light one for all the people who are still waiting tonight for God's love and justice and peace to reign here on earth.

And tonight, we can finally light the Christ Candle!

Jesus is born! So let us sing, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

C **Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday, dear Jesus. Happy birthday to you!**

Prayer

P God of love, thank you for beginning your life with us the way we all began, as a tiny baby. Fill us with joy and wonder this night as we celebrate his birth.

C **Amen.**

Song

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Special Children's Message

"Right from the Horse's Donkey's Mouth," by Nancy Kraft

The Bible Story

Luke 2:1-20
The Message Translation

Song

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

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

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

The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

The Prayers

- A As we pray, every time you hear me say the words: God of love, you will say: hear our prayer.
- A Let us pray. Most holy God, we thank you this night for the best gift of all, Jesus. God of love,
- C Hear our prayer.**
- A We thank you for our families, for all the people who love and care for us. God of love,
- C Hear our prayer.**

A We pray for people who are hungry tonight, people who don't have a warm place to sleep, people who are feeling lonely. God of love,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for people who are missing the ones they love. God of love,

C Hear our prayer.

A Bless our Christmas. Let your light shine on us and fill us with joy. God of love,

C Hear our prayer.

Song

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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!"

Refrain 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! *Refrain*

The Holy Meal

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Songs during Communion

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

“Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Prayer of Thanks

A Thank you, Jesus, for coming to us in this meal of love. As we have received you tonight, on this Holy Night of Christ's birth, fill each of us with your love so that we can live as people hope and joy in the gospel.

C Amen.

The ushers will now distribute glowsticks to the congregation.

Song

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

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!

Blessing

P May you be blessed with the love of God as it comes to you through all the gifts of Christmas: the friends, the family, the food, the fun, the presents. And most of all, may Jesus, who has been born this night, also be born in us.

C Amen.

Song

“Joy to the World”

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.

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.

The Dismissal

A Merry Christmas!

C Merry Christmas!

*The glowsticks may be taken home with you as a gift and visible
sign of Christ's Light born into the World this night!*

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Serving This Evening

Preaching/Presiding Minister

The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Assisting Minister

Lindsay Baker

Acolyte

Gavin Jennings

Organist

Connie Triplett

Deacon

Terrie Leske

Altar Guild

*Elenor Davis, Marilyn Edwards,
Debbie Luekens, Diane Paton, Louise Vertal*



**The Poinsettias On the Altar Display
are presented to the glory of Almighty God
with grateful thanks for –**

Our fourth Christmas at Messiah *by the Bridger Family*
Frank & Mildred Claycomb and Elinor Burce *by the Burce Family*
Lou Celesky by the Celesky Family
Eleanor Celesky by the Celesky Family
My Parents Marjorie & Roy Walker, Sr. *by Rita Gadius*
Ken Negray *by Rita Gadius*
My Sister June Schultz *by Rita Gadius*
Felipa & Ignacio Romo *by the Geier Family*
Our Parents *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*
To the Glory of God *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*
Lyn Kirst *by Ed Kirst*
Captain Todd Kirst *by Ed Kirst*
Eleanor & Reinhold Leske *by Terri Leske*
Tom Filippou and Jane, Bill & Jeff Luekens *by Debbie Luekens*
Donald Miller *by Jay Machado and Stephanie Miller*
In honor of Bruce & Edith Machado *by Jay Machado and
Stephanie Miller*
Eleanor & Richard Weindorf *by Sally & Terry McHugh*
Donald J. Moeller *by the Moeller and Szczepinski family*
Carl, Ruth and Nancy Neumann *by the Neumann Family*

Phil Neumann *by the Neumann Family*

Fran & Jane Pieper *by the Neumann Family*

Loved Ones *by Dorothy Raum*

The Rev. George Pohlod *by the Ratvasky Family*

Bill and Peg Ratvasky *by the Ratvasky Family*

Tracey Beard *by the Royster Family*

Peter & Theresa Szeltner *by John & Heidi Szeltner*

Our Parents by Bob & Martha Trapp

The Rev. John F. Uhle *by the Uhle Family*

Rejoicing for Emerson's health three years 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*

Christmas Week at Messiah!

Dec. 25	10 am	Christmas Day Festival Eucharist
Dec. 26	8:30	One service only (in-person & online)
Dec. 27		Church offices closed
Dec. 30	6-8 pm	Laundry Love at Leo's Laundromat
Dec. 31		Church offices closed
Dec. 31	7 pm	New Year's Eve Zoom Prayer
Jan. 2	8:30 & 11 am	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. Food and funds were donated to neighborhood organizations. Our Little Pantry was well stocked.

Baptism? For My Children? For Me?

Are you new to the church? Have you thought about baptism as an option for your children interested in exploring baptism as a possible gift for your children, or even for yourself? If so, speak with either of our pastors or with Principal Helen Casselberry. We'd be happy to discuss this with you.

Church Office Hours

The offices at Messiah Lutheran Church will be closed Dec. 24 – 27 and Dec. 31. In the event of an emergency, call Pastor Seth at 513-335-2882; otherwise, please leave a voicemail at 440-331-2405.

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: **Isaiah** (Resumes January 12)
- Wednesday evening: **“The Book of God”** (Begins January 12)
- Sunday morning: **What Christians *Get* to Believe** (Resumes January 12)
- Thursday evening: **Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?** (resumes January 6)

Inquirer's Class (New Members)

Interested in learning more about Messiah? Pr. Bridger will lead a special class this Lent to introduce people to our congregation and the faith we share as Lutheran Christians. The class will meet in-person on the first five Sundays in Lent (March 6 to April 3) at 9:45, between our morning services. To learn more or to sign up, drop a note to the church office (church@messiahfp.org) or directly to Pr. Seth (sbridger@messiahfp.org).

2022 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2022 offering envelopes outside the church office.

ShroveFest To Go

March 1, 2022 11:30 am - 6:30 pm

As we write this note, it is impossible to predict how Covid will affect our plans for ShroveFest on March 1. Our team is planning and praying that ShroveFest will be back in 2022 as a "To Go" event only. Like many, we are following the recommendations available today. Our team is meeting again on January 9 to continue planning. If all goes well, we are planning to prepare the cabbage rolls on January 27 & 28. Your help is greatly needed to make this event a success.

For Online Giving To Messiah

Messiah's website, www.messiahfairview.org 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.

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 2021 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.

Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126
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E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

Connect with Messiah – text 'MESSIAHFP' to 84576 to sign-up

Messiah Lutheran School

4401 W. 215th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126
(440) 331-6553
Email – school@messiahfp.org

www.messiahfairview.org

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor– Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf Memorial Fund Director – Darlene Waugh



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit