

Messiah Weekly Memos

December 16, 2021

Health Warning

The COVID infection rate in Cuyahoga County this morning is higher than it has ever been—even higher than it was at this time last December. The CDC strongly encourages all county residents—the fully vaccinated included—to wear masks in public places.

Are you planning to come to church this weekend? We hope so! When you do, **we urge to follow the advice and wear a mask**. Do this for your own sake, and for the sake of those around you. Masks will be available in the atrium and narthex in case you left yours behind.

“We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)



Click the Messiah logo above to visit our website.

This Week at Messiah

[CLICK HERE](#) to see what's happening at Messiah.

God's Word for This Coming Sunday

Micah 5: 2-5a

Luke 1: 46-55

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-45

[CLICK HERE](#) for this Sunday's bulletin

For a children's bulletin

3 + [CLICK HERE](#)

7 + [CLICK HERE](#)

Weekend Service Times

* Masks optional *

Saturdays

(Dec. 18, January 8 & 22)

5:30 pm - Sanctuary

Sundays

8:30 am - in person & online

11 am - in person

9:45 am - Family Service (1/23)

** Masks are Required**

For online services, [CLICK HERE](#)

* An audio recording of the worship service is available through any phone by calling 440-276-4450. You can listen anytime with no charge. Ideal for people without a computer or internet access.

** The Parent's Room is now open for use during both in-person services. The Nursery remains closed **

Our 8:30 am Sunday Service is live streamed online. You can watch the service live or at your convenience.

Watch Online [HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the winter serving schedule

* Continue scrolling for more information

Stay Connected w/Messiah

[December/January Monthly Memo, CLICK HERE](#)

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm Family Service (Masks Required)

7 pm Holy Communion w/Carols & Candlelight

9:30 pm Holy Communion w/ Carols & Candlelight

** Please register [HERE](#) for whichever service (s) you plan on attending. Registration is not required, but it will help us get a sense of how many to plan for.

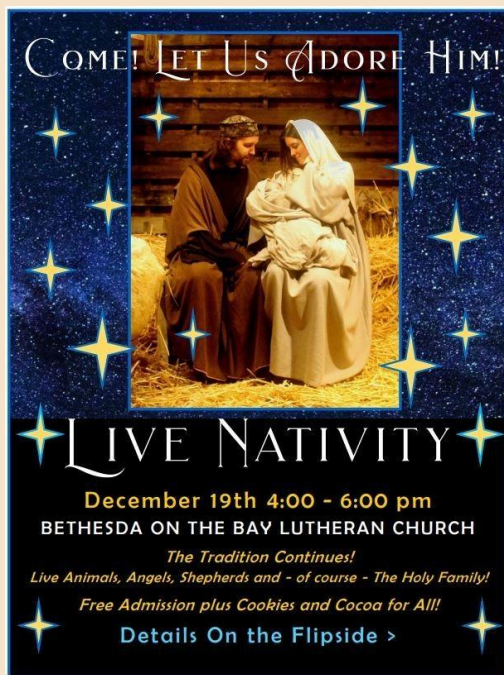
Christmas Day Festival Eucharist at 10 am

Sunday, December 26

8:30 am Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Zoom Prayer at 7 pm

May all of us make time for the refreshing joy of God's word and promise. See you at Church!



Christmas Joy Cards

Are you sending out Christmas cards this year? Have a few extras? Looking to spread the Joy, Peace and Hope this season? Here is something for you, Christmas *Joy Cards*.

Call the church office or email them and they will send you a list of 6-7 Home bound members or other member who need a loving, hopeful and good cheer this Advent/Christmas season. Thank you.

God's peace and blessings,
Deaconess Ruth

Offering Envelopes

Your 2022 offering envelopes are available for pick up outside our church offices. Please notify the church office if you do not see your name. Also notify us if you are giving online and prefer to not receive boxed envelopes in the future.

Transition Team Update

The next meeting of Messiah's transition team is set for today, Thursday, December 16th. The team will work on preparing questions for focus groups that will meet early next year. Team members include Joe Roman, Sharon Ratvasky, Mike Waugh, Mike Allan, and Janelle Stamper.

Shining with Hope as We Gather Commitments

Two weeks ago we started gathering financial commitments toward the Lord's work at Messiah in 2022.

Please thank God for the 121 commitments we have received so far.

We'll continue to invite commitments at services this weekend. You can also make them online. It's as simple as clicking [HERE](#). Fill in the form. Be sure to hit the "Submit" button.

We have a spectacular gift to share at Messiah Church and School. It's the Advent promise of God to make things right for the world and give us the life he has always wanted us to enjoy. With it comes the good news of Christmas that this project is already underway in our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to him it's already unfolding right here at Messiah.

Your offerings will help us shine with hope in Christ next year. God plant glad and generous hearts in each and every one of us!

Sunday Morning Education Hour **9:45 - 10:40am, In the Commons**

Pr. Burce is using his final months at Messiah to share some personal discoveries about the Christian faith and the breathtaking promise of the gospel. Here are the topics for the coming weeks.

Dec. 19: "What Christian's *Get* to Believe about **Where God Is**"

In the Messiah Commons, 9:45 to 10:45 am
Available also via Zoom.

[Click here](#) to join and participate by Zoom.

Meeting ID: 857 0546 1086
Passcode: XRv9sG

Bible Studies

Wednesday morning and evening Bible Classes are in recess until Wednesday, January 12.

There will be no Thursday evening Bible Study on December 23 & 30. Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 6.

Sunday School

We continue to offer Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 9:45 - 10:40 am. Masks are required for adults and children while inside. We meet in the Atrium.

** We look forward to seeing you on **December 19** and **January 16** (please note, there will be NO Sunday School on January 2).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Sun. School Calendar

Confirmation Zoom Class

6th & 7th Grade **January 9 @ 6 pm**

This coming Sunday, the 6th and 7th graders will meet at 6 pm via Zoom. Please sign up for the Zoom class, [HERE](#). The 6th and 7th graders will meet once a month on the 1st Sunday of each month, via Zoom, until it is possible for all to meet in person.

8th Grade **December 19 @ 6 pm**

The 8th graders will meet once a month on the 3rd Sunday of each month, at 6 pm via Zoom, until it is possible for all to meet in person. Please sign up for the Zoom class [HERE](#).

Messiah High School Youth Group Fundraisers

Our last Candy Bar Sunday of Advent is this Sunday!!!!

The Youth Group will be selling candy bars this Sunday from 9:15 - 11 in the Atrium.

We have **Malley's bars** - milk chocolate

Shop to Donate

FIVE BELOW

Happening Now! There are a few more days to shop our December fundraiser "Shop-to-Donate" at the Westgate Five Below from Dec. 12-18. We will earn 10%. You must turn

pretzel, dark chocolate pretzel, crunch, & solid milk chocolate - for \$2. **World's Finest Chocolate bars** - assorted flavors - are \$1.

Cash or checks accepted. All proceeds will go towards our trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Thank you for your support!

P.S. Candy bars make excellent stocking stuffers!

in a copy of the flyer at the register. Copies will be given out at church or can be printed. Download the flyer [HERE](#). Enjoy shopping.

Do you need a last minute gift?

The Messiah Youth Group will be selling jars of locally made honey this Sunday in the Atrium from 9:15 - 2 pm. The cost is \$14 per jar. What a perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for-person on your shopping list!

Wrap-Wrap-Wrap-Your-Gifts

Need help wrapping your gifts? Messiah teen's bound for Minneapolis are happy to help! Bring your gifts to church on Sunday, December 19, from 9:15 - 2 pm to have your gifts wrapped with extra care... and even a Malley's bar!

Please plan to wait and or worship, while your gifts are wrapped. We'll have some gift wrapping supplies on-hand, and you're welcome to bring yours or donate to our stash. All tips received for gift wrapping will offset the cost of transportation to the National Youth Gathering.

Employer Matching Gifts Contributed \$27,300 to Messiah in 2020

Many companies offer matching gift programs to educational institutions and non-profit charitable organizations. Messiah Lutheran Church and School qualifies as one of these organizations. We have been blessed to receive matching gifts over the years from the Benevity Impact Fund, Google, Key Bank, Lubrizol, PNC, Progressive Insurance, Schwab Charitable Fund, The Sherwin Williams Foundation, Thrivent Financial and more. Check with your Human Resources Department if this benefit is available to you. Don't miss out. This is the easiest matching gift program available. Questions? Contact Darlene Waugh, 440-331-2405.

Another Way To Give To Messiah At Year-End

- Do you own an IRA investment?
- Are you age 70 1/2 or older?
- Do you need to make a distribution this year?
- Do you know you can make a required minimum tax-free donation to Messiah from your IRA?

As you think about your year-end donations, please consider directing your IRA distribution to Messiah Lutheran Church and School as another way of giving. Contact your investment officer to discuss this possibility. Thank you.

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

Giving

Thank you for your continued, steadfast donations to Messiah. Your support is greatly appreciated. You may mail checks, give online or text to give.

- **Mail:** Messiah Lutheran Church (21485 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park, OH 44126)
- **Text:** 855-913-1744
- **Online:** [CLICK HERE](#)

You Can Help Our Neighbors Fight Food Insecurity

Our Little Free Pantry is part of Messiah's Laundry Love PLUS efforts to fight food insecurity in Fairview Park.



Members of our Care Team restock the box throughout each week, at an average cost of \$50 worth of groceries each time. Contributions are always welcome!

Best Winter Gifts for Messiah's Little Free Pantry include:

- Mac & Cheese that is already prepared
- Tuna, canned meat, spam
- Canned foods with pop-tops (soups, stew, chili, pasta, vegetables)
- Cake mix & frosting
- Small bags of sugar and flour
- Cartons of broth (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- Small bottles of cooking oil
- Soft baked breakfast bars and/or cereal
- Hot chocolate packets
- Peanut butter/jelly
- Holiday cookies
- Teabags or coffee
- Dishwashing detergent
- Feminine hygiene products
- Knit hats/gloves or socks

Donations can be left in the shopping carts in the area by the church elevator during business/worship hours. Thank you in advance for your generosity! For more information, contact Janice Snyder at jsnyder@messiahfp.org

Online Giving & Text to Give

Thank you for faithfully giving to Messiah Lutheran Church.
You can make a donation online by visiting messiahfairview.org.

Or, simply text your donation amount to **855-913-1744**
It takes 30 seconds to register and 10 seconds to type a donation.

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