

# Christmas Eve



Messiah Lutheran Church  
December 24, 2021

(440) 331-2405  
MessiahChurchFairview.org

## Messiah Lutheran Church, Fairview Park, Ohio Christmas Eve, 2021

A glad welcome this evening to each and every one on this second “pandemic Christmas.” You braved the cold and virus to be here. May Christ warm your hearts. May the Spirit of Love guide you as we observe precautions to keep each other safe. See below.

**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 as you leave after the service. To learn more about Messiah, don’t hesitate to call the church office.

**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 18 for instructions.

### **About safety precautions:**

- COVID infections are at an all-time high in Cuyahoga County. In keeping with CDC recommendations, we encourage everyone to wear a mask, including those who are fully vaccinated. Masks are available in the entrance area to all who might need one.
- Do your best to observe social distancing recommendations.
- Greet each other with waves or fist-bumps.
- We will not pass collection plates this evening. If you brought an offering, look for the plates in the entrance area as you leave.
- The sanctuary will be ventilated between services with fresh outside air. Pardon the chill if one still lingers as you settle in your pew.
- God grant joy in the privilege of caring for each other this evening!

**THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
with Carols and Candlelight as we celebrate  
The Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ  
December 24, 2021  
7 and 9:30 p.m.

**PREPARATION AND ENTRANCE**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

- “For unto Us a Child Is Born,” John Atteberry ..... Allison and Brad Paton
- “What Child Is This?” Evelyn Larters ..... Olivia Clark
- “Sing We Now of Christmas,” Kirstin Campell ..... Jessica McGrath
- “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” Stuart Carlson ..... String Quartet
- “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful,” arr. Anna Laura Page (7 pm only) ..... Joy Ringers
- “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child,” arr. Anna Laura Page (7 pm only) ..... Joy Ringers
- “The First Noel,” Stuart Carlson ..... String Quartet

**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.**

**P** 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:

**C 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.**

**P** “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.

**C 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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O come, all ye faithful,<br/>joyful and triumphant!<br/>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;<br/>come and behold him,<br/>born the king of angels:<br/>O come, let us adore him. . .</p> <p>2 The highest, most holy,<br/>light of light eternal,<br/>born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;<br/>Son of the Father<br/>now in flesh appearing!<br/>O come, let us adore him. . .</p> | <p>3 Sing, choirs of angels,<br/>sing in exultation,<br/>sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!<br/>Glory to God<br/>in the highest:<br/>O come, let us adore him. . .</p> <p>4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,<br/>born this happy morning;<br/>Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!<br/>Word of the Father,<br/>now in flesh appearing:<br/>O come, let us adore him. . .</p> |
|---|---|

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** ..... “Angels We Have Heard on High,” #289  
*stanzas 1 and 3*

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray:

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**FIRST READING**..... Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Choir sings refrain; All sing refrain*



To - day, to - day, to - day is born our Sav-ior, our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

*Choir sings verses; All sing refrain*

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. O sing to the Lord; bless his name. **Refrain**

Proclaim his salvation day by day. Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples. **Refrain**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad; let the sea and all within it thunder praise. Let the land and all it bears rejoice. Then will all the trees of the wood shout for joy. **Refrain**

At the presence of the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice; he will govern the peoples with his truth. **Refrain**

**SECOND READING** ..... Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**HOLY GOSPEL** ..... Luke 2:1-20

*At the procession—*

Let all together praise our God  
Before his glorious throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again  
To give us his own Son,  
To give us his own Son.

He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us his realm,  
His glory, and his name,  
His glory, and his name.

**P** The Holy Gospel is a reading from the second chapter of St. Luke.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**P** This is the Holy Gospel.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ!**

*As the procession returns—*

Your grace in lowliness revealed  
Lord Jesus, we adore,  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And spirit evermore;  
We praise you evermore.

*Please be seated*

**SERMON**

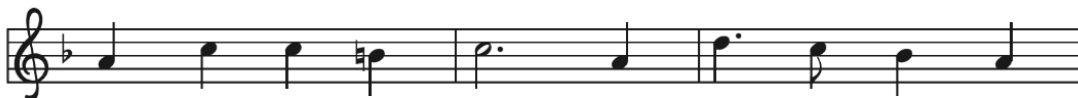
*Please stand as you are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** .....“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

*Choir sings stanza 1*



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
2 “Fear not,” said he, for might - y dread had  
3 “To you, in Da - vid’s town this day, is  
4 “The heav’n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the  
seized their trou - bled mind: “Glad tid - ings of great  
born of Da - vid’s line the Sav - ior, who is  
hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.  
Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:  
swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid.”

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,  
and to earth be peace;  
good will to all from highest heav’n  
begin and never cease!”

**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.

**C** **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, especially 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.*

“Carol of the Bells” .....arr. Jason W. Krug (ASCAP); Joy Ringers 7 p.m.

“God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen,” ..... Henry Pfohl; Messiah Choir 9:30pm

*Please stand as you are able.*

A Let us pray. Heavenly Father,

**C 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.

**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 him thanks and praise.**

P We give you thanks, Father...with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church now and forever.

**C 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.*

“God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen” ..... Henry Pfohl (7:00pm)

“On Christmas Night” ..... #274



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
 made the an-gels sing this night: “Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men.”

“Once in Royal David’s City” ..... #269

1 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.

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.

2 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.

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.

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ..... #288

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

*When all have returned to their places, please stand.*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

## MEDITATION ON CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*Candles will be lit throughout the congregation as the musical reflection is played. 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.*

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten,” Raymond Haan.....Claire Haneberg

### 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.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

### CANDLELIGHT HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night” ..... #281

*Short interlude after each stanza*

1 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.

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**

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** .....“Joy to the World,” #267 *stanzas 1, 2, 4*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br/>         Let earth receive her king;<br/>         let ev'ry heart prepare him room<br/>         and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>         and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>         and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> | <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br/>         Let all their songs employ,<br/>         while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and<br/>         plains<br/>         repeat the sounding joy,<br/>         repeat the sounding joy,<br/>         repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> |
| <p>4 He rules the world with truth and grace<br/>         and makes the nations prove<br/>         the glories of his righteousness<br/>         and wonders of his love,<br/>         and wonders of his love,<br/>         and wonders, wonders of his love.</p>         |  |

**A** Go in Peace! Christ is born! Tell it on the mountain!

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** .....“Let All Together Praise Our God,” J.S. Bach

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## SERVING THIS EVENING

*Presiding Minister* ..... The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

*Preaching Minister*..... The Rev. Dr. Jerome E. Burce

*Assisting Ministers*..... Lindsay Baker, Paula Mickan (7 pm); Mike Allan, Paula Mickan (9:30 pm)

*Director of Music Ministries* ..... Connie Triplett

*String Quartet* ..... Signe Mortensen, Violin; Jessica McGrath, Violin;  
Claire Haneberg, Viola; Olivia Clark, Cello

*Joy Ringers (7 pm)*..... Directed by Ruth King

*Messiah Choir*..... Directed by Connie Triplett

*Acolytes* ..... Antonio Medina, Hayden Wolf (7 pm); Noah Bridger, Kaitlyn Carlin (9:30 pm)

*Deacons*..... Joe King, Bob Trapp (7 pm); Amy & Mark Hunger (10 pm)

*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 Gadus*

Ken Negray *by Rita Gadus*

My Sister June Schultz *by Rita Gadus*

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	Sunday liturgy. Livestreamed. One service only
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.

### 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)

### 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.

### Messiah School Open House

January 23; 1 – 3 pm

Invite a friend to our open house on Sunday, January 23 from 1 – 3pm. 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.

### 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](mailto:church@messiahfp.org)) or directly to Pr. Seth ([sbridger@messiahfp.org](mailto: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.

### Save the Date

January 23	Messiah School Open House @ 1- 3 pm
March 1	Shrove Fest to Go
March 2	Ash Wednesday
April 10	Holy Week Begins
April 17	Easter Sunday
May 21	Messiah Golf Outing @ Forest Hills Golf Course, Elyria
May 22	Confirmation Sunday

## For Online Giving To Messiah

Messiah's website, [www.messiahfairview.org](http://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.

