



# Messiah Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church  
January - 2024



## “It’s About Mission”

In November of 2004, I was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of *The Servant’s Heart* (TSH), a recognized service organization of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). Our January board meeting took place “on site” in Guatemala City, Guatemala. You see, the primary mission field for TSH is the city dump of Guatemala City. There TSH serves “the poorest of the poor,” the people who live in and around the dump, by providing clean food and water five days a week, as well as health care, Christian education and childcare, spiritual and economic development, and volunteer ministry opportunities for concerned Christians. At that time, the wheels were already in motion for TSH to expand its mission and ministry to the people living in and around East Chicago, Indiana. The mission of TSH is just one aspect of the larger mission and ministry of the LCMS to all the peoples of the world, centered in the proclamation of the Good News of eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.

January has traditionally been designated “Mission Month” in the LCMS since the season of Epiphany begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>, The Epiphany of Our Lord. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek verb meaning “to make known, reveal, show.” In the worship services at Messiah Lutheran Church during the Epiphany season, Jesus, the true son of Mary, is also revealed as the true Son of God, the Light of the world. Satan tries in many ways to put out the Light of Christ, but he will never be successful in snuffing out the work of the Holy Spirit, that of calling, enlightening, sanctifying and keeping people in the true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through your offerings, including your special mission offerings, Messiah serves to proclaim the Good News about Jesus in our congregation and in our partner churches - sources of true Light for so many people who live in sin’s darkness all over the world. *Your co-worker in Christ, Pastor Lofgren*

*Epiphany - meaning to make known - The birth of Christ brought God to man; the cross of Christ brought man to God.*

## “Just One Look”

*“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10*

You must wonder how often the Magi looked up to the sky, hoping to see the star that had guided them again. They had come from their distant home to Jerusalem, guided by the star. But during their days in Jerusalem, they couldn’t see the star. We can imagine that they looked and looked, asking one another if they could see the star.



But then, there it was. The star was there. They weren’t forgotten! Instead, their hopes were fulfilled. What joy and excitement they must have felt as they dashed out of Jerusalem to the small town of Bethlehem. They had seen Jerusalem in all its beauty and glory, but that was nothing compared to the treasure that the star revealed.

They came to the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were staying. Imagine the shared stories they could tell. What journeys they had taken - journeys surrounded by uncertainty but filled with God’s direction and promise. We have journeyed through Advent to Christmas. Now we can celebrate with the Magi as the journey concludes with this final stop in Bethlehem. Just as the Magi had joy and peace at that moment, so our joy is centered on that infant born as the Savior of the world.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for guiding us to join all who gather around Your Son, the Savior. Amen.*

*From Daniel E. Paavola in Peace Came to Earth - Daily Devotion - January 6th - CPH - St. Louis*

## “Romans 16” - Paul’s Letter to the church in Boerne

I commend to you our sister Maurine, a servant of the church in Boerne. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of His people and to give her any help she may need from you, she along with Kim have been a great help to us. Greet servants, Richard and Norma, David, Sharon and Bill our co-workers in Christ Jesus. We are so grateful to them. Greet also the friends that open their homes for small group Bible Study, Sue and Dennis, Pam and Larry, Ernie and Marilyn, David and Sue, Pastor Rick and Kim. Also greet hard workers Anthony and Pam, Mario and Eve, Brad and Laura who work very hard for us. We give thanks for friends like Bill Thomas, Kathy and Tom, Tony, Kathy and Mark. Greet also those brothers and sisters who are faithful to the Lord, Mike and Debbie, Jim, John and Debra, Frank and Amanda, Ed and Judy, who along with Dillon and Abbey are in our prayers. Also Jim & Becky, George and Tomie, Chris and Penny, George and Linda, Artie and Diana, Bill and Mary Ann, Charles and Judy, Hal and Lindy, Russell and Margaret, Ed and Carol, Larry and Kathy, Eric and Becca.

The church owes more than it realizes for the prayers, loyalty, and gifts of its female members, give thanks and praise to Shirley, Vonda, Melissa, Pam, Sue, Kathy, Sharon, Kathleen, Kathlin, Jean, Mary Ann, Lindy, Gracie, Melanie, Lynn, Anne, Marilyn, Janis and Joyce, Verna, Lorrie and all the Women of Messiah.

Greet also David, Paul, Rebecca, Snookie, Mike Lang, who like King Uzziah love the soil, they maintain our property. We also thank Bob Shoaf for sharing his gift with us every Sunday. Blessing to all who worship and serve here at Messiah.

It’s going to be a great year. *Mike Gissi, Adult Education.*

*We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*

## From the Board of Elders

In the December newsletter, my article focused on the fact that there was no Head Elder elected at the voter’s meeting in November. In addition, at the time of my writing, I was only aware of two of the current Elders who had indicated their willingness to serve for another year if asked. These two facts were the catalysts that caused the Board of Elders to suggest that the ushers take on the duties associated with church services. That being said, I am very pleased to report that none of the changes envisioned will take place at this time as Maurice Doublett has volunteered to take on the role of Head Elder and that four of the current Elders are willing to serve another year. That is truly great news.

At our Elders meeting in December, it was agreed that the Elders should continue to perform their current duties and there was no need to transfer any duties to the ushers. On the matter of alleviating the collection from the service, a collection box has been ordered, but the collection process will remain the same at this time as well.

If anyone is questioning how Maurice is stepping into the role of Head Elder, he is being appointed for the one-year period of January 15, 2024 to January 15, 2025. His appointment is per Article VI (A.)3(c) of the church By-Laws. If he wants to continue in that role at the end of the coming year, he will have to be nominated by the nomination committee and be elected by the voters at the voter’s meeting in November 2024. He can then be elected to serve a full two-year term as per the By-Laws.

I just wanted to let everyone know the good news. *Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang*

## Update from the Call Committee

Because this update is being written before Christmas, in order to give Maurine a well deserved rest with some time off between Christmas and New Years, it contains a few assumptions of what will have happened by the time you are reading this. As was stated in the Update issued in the Friday newsletter on December 7th, the Call Committee has held Zoom meetings with a number of pastors and narrowed its search down to a small number of candidates that the committee believes can fill the needs of Messiah. These pastors were contacted concerning furthering our discussions with them about a call by setting up second meetings by Zoom or by their coming to visit Messiah/Boerne in person. In that newsletter it was stated that the committee was going to allow the pastors to get through the Advent/Christmas season and those arrangements would be made in the first week of January. Since the first week of January is still ten days away, the exact arrangements have not yet been made, but by the time you are reading this, they will have been.

I know that many in the congregation are anxious to know who the committee is considering and we should be able to reveal that information soon. The committee will act in accordance with Article III, B. of the church By-Laws, where it states, "The "Call List" candidate(s) recommended by the Call Committee shall be announced both orally and in writing to the Congregation on two (2) consecutive Sundays before the Call Meeting." As soon as the committee has confirmed with the pastors being considered that their names can be released, they will be provided to the Congregation. Our waiting for permission from the pastors, centers on giving them the opportunity to notify their current congregations that they are being considered for a call and eliminate the chance that one of their members could find out they are being considered before they are informed by the pastor himself.

It is hope of the Call Committee that we will be ready to make our recommendation to the Congregation in the second half of January and have the "Call Meeting" toward the end of January. Again, the congregation will be given the pastors' names and the names of the churches they are currently serving at least two weeks prior to the "Call Meeting". Because each of the pastors being considered serve churches that stream their Sunday services, if a member so desires, they will be able to see the candidates performing Sunday services in their own churches. Other information concerning each of the candidates will be provided when their names are announced.

It is the hope of the Call Committee that a Call will be issued by the end of January and accepted in early February. Once our Call is accepted, it will depend on the pastor as to when he would arrive at Messiah. Please keep this entire process and all involved in your prayers.

*Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang*

## Meeting your Board of Directors

This month's highlight of the Board of Directors is Brad Sanders. Brad serves and Messiah's Chairman. Please get to know your board members. We're here to serve you!

Brad and Laura Sanders became members of Messiah in 2013. Brad has served as an Elder and a Head Elder. Currently Brad is serving on the Board of Directors and is currently the Board Chairman.

Brad works for the City of San Antonio in his current position as a property crimes detective.

Brad enjoys gardening, woodworking, and building.

He is looking forward to retirement in August of 2024 and spending time on his property in Powell, Texas, close to his Daughter, Son-in-Law and his Granddaughter and Grandson.



# Messiah's Kids Preschool News

December sped by us at Messiah's Kids. Our teachers celebrated the season with a trip to Board & Brush, followed by lunch at El Chaparral.



The classrooms were filled with excitement and joy as they practiced their bells and songs and created unique and memorable gifts for their parents. A giant thank you goes out to Larry Risley who cut and sanded fence posts for an adorable gift idea in our 18 months classroom. Fence posts were turned into snowmen the size of each child! What an amazing keepsake and we couldn't have pulled it off without Larry's help.

The Friends of Our Preschool provided a delicious lunch for our teachers who were definitely being stretched too thin and needed the love and care provided by this amazing group!



Our families, children and teachers are beyond blessed through the continued ministry that MLC provides. Our children were filled with love and excited about the birth of Jesus as they headed off to Christmas break. Messiah's Kids are excited to start the new year as we welcome our children back on Monday, January 8th!

*Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey - Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool*

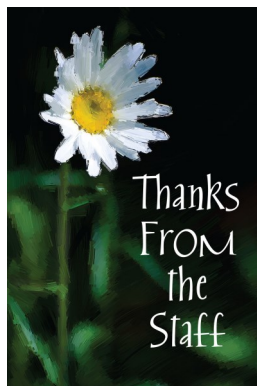


**Registration for the 2024 - 2025 school year is right around the corner.**

***Priority registration, which includes church members, is January 10th thru January 31st.***

**Community registration is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at 8:00 am.**

We are always excited to share the amazing ministry that our families have grown to trust in the development of their early learners. If you know of anyone looking for information about Messiah's Kids, please have them email me at [messiahskidsboerne@outlook.com](mailto:messiahskidsboerne@outlook.com). ***Gina Huskey***



*Thank you to all who contributed financially to the congregational Christmas gift to the staff. There are never appropriate words of appreciation to express our thanks to you who have supported us with your prayers, words of appreciation and your gifts during this past year. Your kindness and generosity reflect your love and encouragement.*

*We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving congregation! May our Lord richly bless you with His peace this new year!*



## From Mark Giardinelli

Dear Messiah Family, Thank you for your prayers for my trip to Dallas with Operation Christmas Child to work in the Processing Center there. It went well and I enjoyed my time there serving from December 4th thru 6th for 8-hour shifts. On that same note, Terry Chhabra and I are going to Aurora, Illinois to serve in the Processing Center there. We will be doing Build A Shoebox Online shoeboxes, in which we actually put together the shoeboxes to go to restricted access areas where the Gospel has never been heard. We will be going February 5th thru 8th, to serve there. Please pray for good weather and good health for both of us as we go. We will not be able to put any pictures in the newsletter or on Facebook of us filling the boxes.



This year is the 25th Anniversary after surviving cancer. As a way to celebrate, my goal is to raise 25 online shoeboxes between January 1st and July 15th, in a campaign I'm calling 25 for 25 years. Please pray for this campaign and if God so compels you, this is an opportunity to get involved with Operation Christmas Child early on in the year. In the next newsletter, I will have the link for the goal page.

On January 29th, we will be showing *"To the Ends of the Earth"*. It is a documentary about the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship and what they do to serve isolated people with help, hope and healing. All adults 22 and over are welcome to come hang out with them and watch this video while eating popcorn and drinking soda. *We still need someone to do AV and help pop popcorn and hand out drinks to the adults.* **In Christ, Mark Giardinelli**



Meant to challenge and inspire, **ENDS OF THE EARTH** will show audiences the unexpected ways God can use people's passions to transform lives. The documentary explores stories of faith, calling, and adventure by weaving together the true stories of MAF pilots — past and present — who strive with other missionaries, churches and organizations to take the gospel to the most isolated and inaccessible places on earth.

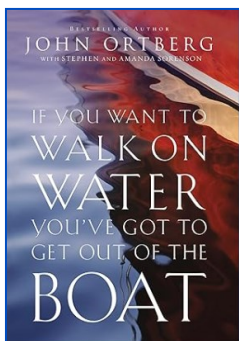
## Friday Morning Women's Bible Study



Messiah's Women's Friday Morning Bible Study begins Friday, January 19th ending February 23rd from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Family Life Center Fellowship Room Lead by Kathlin Jauregui.

In this six-session small group Bible study, ***If You Want to Walk on Water, You've got to Get Out of the Boat***, by **John Ortberg**, you'll learn how to move beyond fear to discover God's unique calling for your life! Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus' invitation to walk on water is for you as well. But walk on water? What does that mean? *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* helps you answer helps you answer Christ's call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing how to discern God's call, transcend fear, risk faith, manage failure, and trust God. Relating to the story in Matthew 14 to life today, teacher and bestselling author John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

This Participant Guide is designed for use with the companion DVD. It's filled with insights, questions for discussion, and applications that will help you connect a new way of thinking to actual deeds and a different approach to life. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change your forever, deepening your character and your trust in God.



## Board of Lay Ministry - Discipleship

We thank **David Wendeborn** for his leadership of this ministry these past few years and for offering to continue advising us as we move forward in the new year. We are thankful to be a part of Messiah's lay ministry and are looking forward to working with others including elders, adult education, missions, fellowship, prayer ministry and more.

Messiah is a church of baptized believers dedicated to being disciples, followers, of our Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, Messiah Lutheran Church exists to lead people to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We promote being a caring congregation where all feel welcome, supporting Christian growth through ongoing, Christ-centered education, and using our God-given talents for outreach to make more disciples in the community and beyond. (Look familiar?)

(Matthew 28:18-20) *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

The Discipleship Lay Ministry exists to encourage, equip, and support our members to implement this vision. I hope some of you will join our team and help us accomplish our tasks.

What are our tasks? Discipleship is the task of training believers to become mature followers of Christ, growing in their knowledge of, love for, and obedience to the Lord and His Word. It is also the task of taking what we learn and reaching out to the community and beyond announcing the good news of Christ's death, burial, resurrection and ascension. This is known as evangelism. *Jesus said to "go and make more disciples."*

We must greet all guests to make them feel welcome and assimilate new members quickly, making them part of our neighborhood small groups and fellowships. Reach out to anyone you don't know at each service or event. And we need an active youth ministry, nursery, and Sunday school to make families into disciples! Watch the calendar and weekly emails for training and events. **Dennis Parker**



Jan 3 - Bill & Rebecca Horn

- 43 years of marriage -

Jan 14 - Eric & Abbi Longson

- 19 years of marriage -

Jan 16 - Terry & Beverly King

- 31 years of marriage -

Jan 22 - Jochen & Karen Brosien

- 19 years of marriage -

**Jan 23 - George & Tomie Bratina**

- 62 years of marriage -

Jan 1 - Adam Leitko

Jan 4 - Bill Eichman

Jan 6 - Colin Bibb

Jan 6 - Brian Golden

Jan 6 - Richard Lofgren

Jan 9 - Tomie Bratina

Jan 13 - Paul Duennenberg

Jan 13 - Eric Sagebiel

Jan 18 - Alana Kemmy

Jan 20 - Beth Leachman

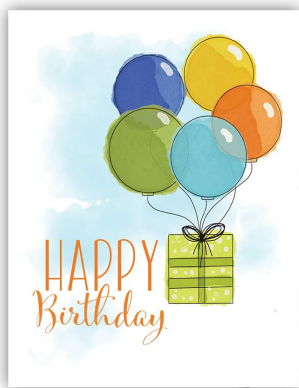
Jan 22 - Kathy Bibb

Jan 22 - Dan Cifers

Jan 23 - Kylie Mycock

Jan 27 - Kathlin Jauregui

Jan 81 - Kathy Giardinelli



### Are you in need of a couple of chairs?

Messiah has 2 very comfortable reclining wingback chairs up for adoption.

The fabric on the seat of one is a little worn. A nice slipcover might be just what is needed. Reupholstering might be the preferred method. Trying to keep them out of the dumpster.

**Let David Rhoads know if you are interested.**





## Messiah's 2023 Christmas Party

The Fellowship Committee's final event for the year was the Adult Christmas party. Once again Black Tie Catering provided delicious food and Bob Shoaf provided background music and music for caroling. And then there was the first ever Men's Festive Christmas Sock Contest - **Congratulations to Larry Rottman - His socks state that "He was here for the Snacks!"** It was an enjoyable evening with good friends, food, and fun and a great way to close out the year! **Pam Fields**



## Multigenerational Card & Cookie Decorating Success

Thanks to the many who participated in this year's event. We had 25 participants and made 32 cards to send out to special friends of Messiah and our shut-ins. We also decorated Christmas cookies; 36 homemade stockings and Christmas tree cookies from Sue Parker's delicious family recipe and 12 ugly sweater cookies from Walmart. Everyone had plenty to eat and decorate. Sharing a meal before and doing the activities provided a wonderful time of stress free fellowship for everyone! A special thanks to Ed Mycock and Thrivent providing the funds for the whole event!

*Blessings from your sister in Christ - Kathy Giardinelli*



for



### STUDY GOD'S WORD IN 2024

LCMS Stewardship has encouraged Lutherans to spend 1% every day (14 minutes) in God's Word and prayer. The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is currently leading a study on the Book of Colossians. You can listen at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider. <http://issuesetc.org/support/>

*Jeff Schwarz, Producer - Issues, Etc.*



## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Dates to Add to your 2024 Calendar

*January 20th - Adult Game Day in the Fellowship Room - Family Life Center*

*February 1st - Ladies Time Out - Valentine Brunch - Mae Dunne's Kitchen & Goods*

*February 10th - Adult Game Day in the Fellowship Room - Family Life Center*

*February 14th - Ash Wednesday*

*February 17th - Valentine Lunch for Everyone - Alstadt Brewery*

*February 21st & 28th - Lent Services*

*March 6th & 13th & 20th - Lent Services*

*March 16th - Mission Aviation Fellowship - Texas Event in Granbury, Tx*

*March 24th - Palm Sunday*

*March 28th - Maundy Thursday - March 29th - Good Friday*

*March 31st - Easter Sunday*