

Serving us Today – December 25, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Elders: Dennis Parker & Roger Winkelmann
Coffee: Sue Parker
Treats: Janis & Joyce Meier & Anne Zumme
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Ed & Gracie Funk
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Joyce Young
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Artie Dolt
Ushers: Maurice Doublet – Larry Rottman – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb
Greeters: David & Sharon Sattler
Nursery: Kathy Bibb & Penny Carter



The **WORD** became flesh
and **LIVED** among us ...

John 1:14, NRSV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz Elkhorn

Boerne, Texas 78015

(830)755-4300

www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor
Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool
David Rhoads, Facilities Manager
Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant

Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: **82** | Sunday School: **34**

November 2022 Contributions:

General Fund: \$38,946.54 | Building Fund: \$3,395.00
Family Life Center: \$523.31



BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

CLOSING HYMN: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (LSB 388)

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

AS WE GATHER

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The LORD has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN: “Once in Royal David’s City” (LSB 376)

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 mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
And He feels for all our sadness,
Day by day like us He grew;
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
For that child so dear and gentle
And He leads His children on
Through His own redeeming love;
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Then like stars His children, crowned,
With the oxen standing by
Set at God's right hand on high.
All in white, His praise will sound!

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
People: **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

Pastor: Come into His presence with singing!
People: **Know that the LORD, He is God!**

Pastor: It is He who made us, and we are His;
People: **we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
People: **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

Pastor: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
People: **and His faithfulness to all generations.** (The candles are lit.)

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Late in time behold Him come,
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Light and life to all He brings,
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Refrain

Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Born that man no more may die,
Born to give them second birth.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB 388)

Angels we have heard on high,
And the mountains in reply,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

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

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that we have seen Your salvation in our Savior born this day, and in His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We implore You that of Your infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, that we would share the gifts of grace and be the beautiful feet with the Good News of Christ the Savior born, in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.
(please be seated)

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (LSB 358)

“From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.!

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

“HYMN OF THE DAY: “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” (LSB 380)

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,
People: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Pastor: In Him was life,
People: and the life was the light of men.

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.
People: We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

INTROIT

Pastor: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. Sing to the Lord a new song.

People: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music

People: with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn – shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

SANCTUS Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

OFFERING SONG:

(please stand)

“We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LSB 781 vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

(The Lord's coming salvation.)

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” 8 The voice of your watchmen - they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. 9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 1:1-6

(The supremacy of God's Son.)

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

(The Word became flesh.)

(please stand)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

8 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come.
Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB 384) *(please be seated)*

Of the Father’s love begotten
He is Alpha and Omega,
Of the things that are, that have been,
Evermore and evermore.

Ere the worlds began to be,
He the source, the ending He,
And that future years shall see

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
Evermore and evermore.

When the virgin, full of grace,
Bore the Savior of our race,
First revealed His sacred face

This is He whom seers in old time
Whom the voices of the prophets
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Evermore and evermore.

Chanted of with one accord,
Promised in their faithful word.
Let creation praise its Lord

O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him;
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Evermore and evermore.

Angel hosts, His praises sing.
And extol our God and King.
Ev’ry voice in concert ring

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
Honor, glory, and dominion,
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
And unending praises be,
And eternal victory

MESSAGE: “God Among Us”

John 1:1-14

OFFERING

[If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ’s church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.]