

# Happy New Year

## Messiah's Messenger

### Where (and how) are We Going?

David Wendeborn, *Discipleship*



#### **A story by Lloyd Ogilvie from "Time with God."**

One day while I was sailing, the wind went down and the sea became calm and flat. There was nothing to do but sit in irons and wait for the wind. "Irons" is a sailing term for a windless time of drifting. While waiting for the wind, I drifted past another sailboat that was floating aimlessly. The people on board the craft waved and made a flat of the hand gesture of complaint about then lack of wind. One man stood by the sails and blew on them. I thought about that for a long time afterward. How like many Christians and far too many churches, human breath blowing on the sails - no wonder we make so little progress!

The Spirit of God in Hebrew is "ruach," meaning "breath" and "wind." At Pentecost the power of the Holy Spirit was like a mighty wind. The Spirit filled the disciples and got them moving again. What we need is a mighty wind - a fresh, bracing wind of a new Pentecost.

. . . So stop blowing your own breath into the sails of your life or your church. Ask for a fresh wind to fill the sails. Without the Holy Spirit, we'll drift in irons and be lost at sea . . .

#### *A prayer of Clement of Rome*

*Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant, we pray, that we might be grounded and settled in your truth by the coming of your Holy Spirit into our hearts. What we do not know, reveal to us; What is lacking within us, make complete; That which we do know, confirm in us; And keep us blameless in your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

As we welcome 2023 let us continue, in Prayer, to ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit to give us clear direction in the path He would have Messiah take. In our community, guide us to share His Gospel and to serve others to fulfill our assignment to "Go and Make Disciples."



## A Note from Pastor ...

## *"Beginning" in the Beginning"*

In the Book of Psalms we read, *"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (11:3 ESV). Over the last thirty to forty years, some foundational changes have taken place in American society and have impacted the Christian church. Due to these cultural changes in our society, some of the educational and evangelism programs used and promoted by our church may no longer be as effective in making disciples as they were in the past. Since an ever increasing proportion of our society does not have a basic understanding of the teachings of the Bible, the Adult Bible Class has been studying a book from Answers in Genesis entitled *Begin*, a book which includes foundational portions of the Bible from Genesis, Exodus, John, Romans, and Revelation. Beginning on Sunday, January 9, 2023, we will take a break from studying the Gospel of John and begin a study of the Lutheran Christian faith leading to Adult Confirmation for those who desire it. By the way, this is also an excellent opportunity to review your Lutheran Christian beliefs.

In his letter to the Church in Sardis, St. John provides a plan in order to deal with the current condition of our crumbling biblical culture:

***Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you have received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. (Rev. 3:2-3 ESV)***

Like the Church in Sardis, the members of Messiah Lutheran Church have received a good biblical foundation for the Christian faith from the preaching and teaching ministry of our church, but without regular attendance of worship services and Bible classes, this foundation will be destroyed. Just as regular eating of food and exercising of our bodies is necessary for physical health, so also regular worship and Bible study is necessary for our spiritual health. As a Christian congregation, we need to wake up from our spiritual slumber and repent of our apathetic attitude toward hearing and learning the Word of God. Then we can "strengthen what remains" through regular worship and study of God's Word in Sunday school and Bible Study classes.

Of course, the God-pleasing solution to our present situation is not only to reinforce our understanding of God's word by coming to church, but also to reach out to the people we know, as well as to establish new relationships with people we don't know, with the Good News about Jesus. As Jesus told His disciples before His ascension, *"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"* (Mt 28:19-20a). Like God's people in all ages, the Early Church had her difficulties, but she understood the times she lived in. We also need to understand the times and challenges we face and respond appropriately. By participating in Adult Bible Class, working through *Begin* with the rest of the Adult Bible class, and studying Lutheran Christian teaching from the Bible, you will be equipped to bear witness to others about the new life that awaits them through Jesus Christ, who is the Door (Jn 10:9).

*Your co-worker in Christ, Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor*  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Boerne

# From Our Elders

MIKE LANG

The holidays are over and we're now into the New Year. I hope everyone had a wonderful, Christ filled holiday season with your family and friends. Pastor Lofgren has worked diligently through the month of December, not only fulfilling all the pastoral duties that accompany the season of Advent, but also interviewing members of the congregation in order to formulate the learning teams that will be created in the near future.

It's now time for us to go to work. I encourage those of you that have been interviewed and are subsequently asked to become part of a team to volunteer your time and work diligently with your team through this process.

As soon as the Learning Teams complete their tasks, their information will be handed off to the Vision Team which will create a vision or long-range plan for Messiah. Once the vision is approved by the voting members the last step will be to create a Mission Statement for Messiah. Once this is completed, we should be in a position to begin the call process for a permanent pastor.

On a separate issue, I want to let you know that Dennis Parker has termed out as an Elder and will be going off the Board of Elders. Dennis deserves a well-earned rest having served as an elder for four years during which time he was also leading the Three Year Reading of the Bible, providing excellent commentary every single day with his only breather being when Jerry Ball stepped in for short periods. Dennis has done all of us a great service and certainly deserves a rest. As soon as I have recruited someone to step into Dennis's spot, I will let you know.

Your brother in Christ, Mike Lang

## Messiah's Front Door

LAURA SAUNDERS

Our Messiah website and our Messiah Facebook page is our front door, as people often visit electronically from the privacy of their home checking us out before they venture into the church building. This is our opportunity to let others know who we are. It's also a place for members to stay informed of what is happening. To that end, Laura Sanders has been updating our website and Mark Giardinelli is keeping our Facebook page active. Laura has added several new features including names and faces for all our Board members, the monthly newsletters, weekly bulletins, and an online prayer request submission form.



As we continue, please send Laura Sanders anything you want to be added to the website, and in the future, be sure to send her any photos of current Messiah activities. If you see errors, don't be afraid to let her know as soon as possible so she can get it corrected. Please email [LSandersCoach@gmail.com](mailto:LSandersCoach@gmail.com). She will also pass on relevant information to Mark for Facebook.

# Refurbishment Update

*David Wendeborn*

Much has been done on the Refurbishment of the church to date. Here are some highlights:

- All demolition work has been completed
- The Women's Restroom is nearing remodel completion
- Coffee Bar framed and ready for cabinets
- Narthex has been prepared for tile flooring
- Sanctuary framing has been completed, awaiting some final sheetrock work
- The Chancel Altar area is being prepared for creating the opening for the new stained-glass window
- Side window preparation for new windows
- Fire Sprinkler System approval is pending the Fire Marshall sign off
- Sound booth framing completed
- Welcome booth and storage framed
- Cabinets and Millwork ordered
- Pews ordered and scheduled for delivery
- Altar furniture sent for refinishing
- New Stained Glass for the Nave area has been commissioned
- New Lighting being installed
- Sanctuary Chairs have all been sold



We are still anticipating a completion date in mid-March if all subcontractors and material suppliers are able to stay on schedule.

Those interested in participating in the project may make donations to the church labeled "Refurbishment Project." There have already been several additional generous donations for dedicated items; e.g., stained glass side windows.

# Messiah Ladies Time Out Breakfast

*Lindy Eschenko*

Just a quick reminder that we will meet at The Little Gretel on Thursday morning January 12th at 9am to get together and also in February on Wednesday morning February 15th for an after Valentines gathering at 9am! Hope you can join us!!

I will bring a sign up sheet to church and you can also RSVP to me!!

Lindy Eschenko 979-229-7760 text or email!



# Adult Education

DENNIS PARKER

The New Year provides us a new opportunity to grow as Christians in God's Word with lessons from Scripture on how we should live our lives and how we can carry out the Great Commission.



Our first priority is to worship together according to Scripture as we believe, teach and confess in our Lutheran Book of Concord. This worship is led by our Pastor, who teaches us weekly sharing the Word and practicing the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

To get into more depth of understanding Pastor also teaches a weekly Bible study where we learn and discuss details on Bible books and topics. We have just completed going through the first eleven chapters of Genesis, creation, the flood and populating the earth after the Tower of Babel. We also studied Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments. This year he will teach us from other essential books of the Bible and, as always, we offer classes for people about the basics of Christianity and those interested in joining Messiah.

Growing as Christians, becoming true followers of Christ, is the subject of Discipleship. Growing out as Christians we learn to share the Gospel message with our neighbors. This is evangelism, and our district now has a special course, Evangelism 101, for building evangelism practice. Explaining the reason for our faith and defending the Christian Worldview is also important as we seek through love to lead others to the correct path. The latter is the subject of Apologetics, meaning to defend.

This year there will be opportunities in small groups in homes and in classes at Messiah to explore each of these topics. Each will be Bible based. Tentative studies include looking at the Lutheran difference versus other denominations (see the November LW). Another study looks at Christianity versus other world religious beliefs (note the current Avatar movies). Yet another gets into Discipleship 101 and one into evangelism.

The first classes begin the second week of January. Watch for announcements of subjects and dates. Also, this year we will encourage personal, at home daily Bible study. We realize you may have your own way to do this. Messiah provides Portals of Prayer to support you.

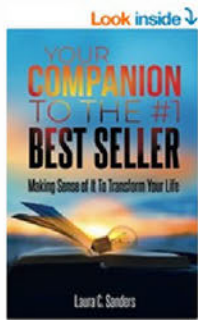
In addition, we are encouraging a specific plan to read through the entire Bible in 2023. This plan uses Laura Sanders new book, Your Companion to the #1 Bestseller – Making Sense of it to Transform Your Life. It uses a chronological daily listing of Scriptures that includes Old Testament reading for five days followed by two days in the New Testament. Laura's book includes thought provoking questions and encouragements for each day. We will have periodic discussion groups including an online setup using Microsoft Teams. Let us have your email if you are interested in joining this group.

Let me know if you would like to host a small group or facilitate one of the studies.

Dennis Parker  
drparker46@gmail.com

# "Reading thru the Entire Bible in 2023."

Laura Saunders



For those of you that would like to follow along in Your Companion to the #1 Best Seller, the daily readings are posted below. The book can be previewed on Amazon for purchase or directly from Laura Sanders.

This 1-year chronological reading plan focuses on the Old Testament Monday through Friday and the New Testament on the weekends. If you would like to take advantage of the daily reflection and thought-provoking questions. We will have periodic discussion groups including an online group using Microsoft Teams. Let us have your email if you are interested in joining this group.

Date	Readings
01-02	Genesis 1 to 3
01-03	Genesis 4 to 6
01-04	Genesis 7 to 9
01-05	Genesis 10 to 13 and I Chronicles 1:1-27
01-06	Genesis 14, Psalm 110 and Hebrews 5:5-10, 6:20-7:28
01-07	Luke 1 and Matthew 1:18-25
01-08	Luke 2 and Matthew 2
01-09	Genesis 15 to 17 and Romans 4
01-10	Genesis 18 to 20
01-11	Genesis 21 to 23 and Galatians 4:21-31
01-12	Genesis 24, 25 and I Chronicles 1:28-34
01-13	Genesis 26:1 to 28:9
01-14	Matthew 3:1 to 4:11 and Luke 3:1-22, 4:1-13
01-15	Mark 1:1-13 and John 1:1-34
01-16	Genesis 28:10 to 30:43
01-17	Genesis 31 to 33
01-18	Genesis 36, I Chronicles 1:35-54 and Genesis 34, 35
01-19	Job 1 to 3
01-20	Job 4 to 7
01-21	Matthew 4:12-25, Mark 1:14-28, Luke 4:14-5:11 and John 1:35-51
01-22	Luke 5:12-26, Mark 1:29 to 2:12 and Matthew 8:1-4, 14-17, 9:1-8
01-23	Job 8 to 10
01-24	Job 11 to 14
01-25	Job 15 to 17
01-26	Job 18 to 21
01-27	Job 22 to 24
01-28	John 2:1 to 3:21
01-29	John 3:22 to 4:54
01-30	Job 25 to 28
01-31	Job 29 to 31

## "Prayer Requests"

Laura Saunders

We value your prayer requests, and respect the confidential nature of many of them. As always, you can privately share your prayer requests with Pastor Lofgren or your Elder.

Another option is to send a Text to (210) 802-9290 which is sent to Maurine Maloy. A new option is to log onto [www.messiahboerne.org](http://www.messiahboerne.org) and scroll down to the bottom of the page and submit a Prayer Request.

### Prayer Request

First Name

Last Name

Email \*

Message

Phone

Select an option \*

Confidential Only

Include in Sunday morning worship services

Include Sunday morning and in Messiah Boerne Prayer group email

You have three options when submitting your prayer request online. You may select to keep it confidential, include it in Sunday morning worship services, or include it Sunday morning and sent out in a group email maintained by Dennis Parker consisting of many current and former members who want to pray for you.

When your prayer requests are submitted online, notifications are sent to the general mailbox for Messiah, Maurine Maloy, Pastor Lofgren, and Messiah Boerne Prayer gmail account monitored by Dennis Parker. These three individuals respect your privacy and the option you selected for your prayer request.

# Operation Christmas Child Processing

MARK GIARDINELLI

Dear Messiah Family,

I am part of the Operation Christmas Child's Hill Country Team Year-Round Volunteer. I am part of the Prayer Team and Community Relations Team.

We are continually seeking members to join our team, especially in the areas of Church Relations, our Prayer Team and Student Relations (OCC requirement: You must be 15 years or older).



If you like to fill shoeboxes and have a passion for reaching children with the Gospel, please contact Mark Giardinelli.

Thanks for your continued love for these children and packing shoeboxes. You are making a great impact in the lives of children for eternity.

<https://samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/volunteer-year-round/>

Mark Giardinelli: missionarymark@gmail.com

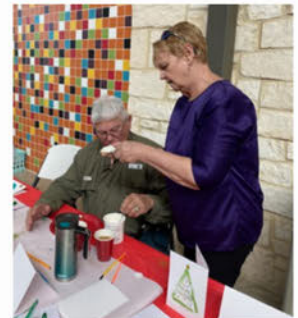


Year-Round Volunteering with Operation Christmas Child  
samaritanspurse.org

# Cookie and Card Making December Event

KATHY GIARDINELLI

We had a very successful December event where: Josh, Ben, and Becca Sagebiel; Ed and Carol Mycock; (Frank), Amanda, Gus and Luke Addington; Pam and (Anthony) Sansone; Kathy and (Tom) Bibb and their grandkids, Abbey and Will; (Mario), Eve, Bella, Juliet and Gianna Betancourt; Debbie Stender; Toby Brosien; Joyce and Janis Meier; Lisa Ley; Sue and (David) Theis; and our family, (Tony), Kathy and Mark Giardinelli made cookies and cards. Well the men mostly moved furniture and participated in fellowship time! We had so much fun making 35 beautiful cards to send to all of our shut-ins, those grieving and those who are facing some major health issues. We followed with a lunch provided by Thrivent funds of chili, pigs in a blanket, hot apple cider, chips and drinks; and of course our delicious cookies made lovingly by Sue Parker for all of us to decorate. Thank you to all of those who participated in making this a very fun and blessed multi-generational event!



Your sister in Christ - Kathy Giardinelli

# Wacky Witnessing Olympics is Coming

KATHY GIARDINELLI



This February 5th event will take place immediately after church in the gym.

This is another multi-generational event for friends and family. The major objective of this is to provide a fun, relaxed atmosphere for members (both active and inactive) to enjoy a fun afternoon together.

You are encouraged to invite friends, in fact a prize will be given to the person who brings the most friends! Prizes will also be given for: 1) The most points, 2) Best costume or team uniform and other prizes yet to be determined.

Of course if you are not an athlete, you can still cheer on and support the contestants. I'm planning to have a lunch of Subway sandwiches, chips and drinks.

**The Planning Meeting for the Wacky Witnessing Olympics** is during the Sunday School hour on January 8th. I already have a list of several ideas for games and props, but this will be a great time to come up with other ideas. Kathy Giardinelli at (text) 210-334-8820 or (email) kagiardinelli@gmail.com.



Thanks from your sister in Christ - Kathy Giardinelli

## Messiah's Kids

GINA HUSKEY

*Messiah's Kids is excited to start the new year  
as we welcome our children back on Monday, January 9!*

**Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is right around the corner.**

Priority registration is January 16th thru 26st ,  
which includes church members.

Community registration is scheduled for Tuesday,  
February 8th at 8:00.

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).



Healthy Blessings, Gina Huskey  
Gina Huskey, Director  
Messiah's Kids Preschool





# LIFE MAGNIFIED

Reverend Bryan Wolfmueller with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin has invited us to attend Life Magnified on Saturday, January 28th. Join Rebecca Bottlinger and others from Messiah for this LCMS Life Ministry event. You may also contact Rebecca Bottlinger at 830.388.9025 if you have questions about registration or coordinating with her for a carpool or caravan to Austin. From St. Paul: Thank the Lord for giving us the gift of life, and we pray, study, and march for our neighbors, so that life would be extolled and magnified.

We will gather on Saturday, January 28th at St Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River Street, Austin, TX 78705. Everyone is invited and welcome, but we especially invite our fellow Lutherans all over Texas to join us for this event.

Saturday, January 28

- 8:00am-9:00am Coffee/Social
- 9:00am-10:00am Matins Service of Prayer and Repentance (Vicar Davis and Pr Peter Kolb, Life Coordinator for the Texas District)
- 10:00am-11:00am Bible study How We Think of the Other (Pr Wolfmueller, St Paul)
- 11:00am-11:30am Lunch/March Instructions
- 11:30pm-12:00pm Move to Texas Capitol (meeting point to be announced)
- 1:00pm-4:00pm March/Rally for Life

There is no cost. Lunch will be provided. Please register at the St. Paul website at <https://www.stpaulaustin.org/events/life-magnified-2023-pray-study-march/> to help them get an accurate headcount for lunch. LCMS Life Ministries will provide stocking caps and hymn signs for attendees that sign up for the march through [www.lcms-life.org](http://www.lcms-life.org). Hats and signs will go out the first week of January so that they arrive in time.



Jan 3 - Bill & Rebecca Horn  
41 years

Jan 14 - Eric & Abbi Longson  
17 years

Jan 16 - Terry & Beverly King  
29 years

Jan 22 - Jochen & Karen Brosien  
17 years

**Jan 23 - George & Tomie Bratina**  
**60 years**



Jan 1 - Adam Leitko

Jan 4 - Bill Eichman

Jan 6 - Colin Bibb

Jan 6 - Brian Golden

Jan 6 - Richard Lofgren

Jan 8 - Steve Koronczok

Jan 9 - Tomie Bratina

Jan 13 - Paul Duennenberg

Jan 13 - Erik Sagebiel

Jan 18 - Kelly Joseph

Jan 18 - Ed Funk

Jan 18 - Alana Kemmy

Jan 20 - Beth Leachman

Jan 22 - Dan Cifers

Jan 22 - Kathy Bibb

Jan 23 - Kylie Mycock

Jan 27 - Kathlin Jauregui

Jan 28 - Kathy Giardinelli

Jan 31 - Robert Saur

# Messiah Servants - January 2023

ELDERS - Mike Lang and Hal Eschenko

Jan 1st, 8th and 15th

Ushers - Tony Giardinelli, Allen Leitko, Anthony Sansone, David Theis

January 22nd and 29th

Ushers - Hal Eschenko, Ernie Mazurek, Joe Sorensen, Harold Moore

## January 1st -

Coffee - Sue Parker

Breakfast - Joyce & Janis Meier

Tellers - Anthony Sansone

Chancel Care - Ed & Gracie Funk

Musician - Joyce Young

A / V Tech - Tony Giardinelli

Scripture Reader - Kathy Rottman

Greeters - Sue Theis

Altar Flowers - Hal & Lindy Eschenko  
celebrating a New Year 2023

## January 8th

Coffee - Joyce & Janis Meier

Breakfast - Kathlin Jauregui

Tellers - Anthony Sansone

Chancel Care - Ed & Gracie Funk

Musician - Joyce Young

A / V Tech - Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek

Scripture Reader - Pam Fields

Greeters - David & Sharon Sattler

Altar Flowers - Open

## January 15th

Coffee - Marilyn Mazurek

Breakfast - Lindy Eschenko

Tellers - Anthony Sansone

Chancel Care - Ed & Gracie Funk

Musician - Vickie Lautner

A / V Tech - Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek

Scripture Reader - Sharon Sattler

Greeters - Anthony & Pam Sansone

Altar Flowers - Larry & Pam Risleys  
honoring Amanda's Birthday

## January 22nd -

Coffee - Sue Parker

Breakfast - Vonda Petmecky

Tellers - Anthony Sansone

Chancel Care - Ed & Gracie Funk

Musician - Vickie Lautner

A / V Tech - David & Lorrie Wendeborn

Scripture Reader - Sue Parker

Greeters - Kathy Giardinelli

Altar Flowers - Russ & Margaret Leachman -  
honoring Beth's Birthday

## January 29th

Coffee - Shirley Moore

Breakfast - Shirley Moore

Tellers - Anthony Sansone

Chancel Care - Ed & Gracie Funk

Musician - Joyce Young

A / V Tech - David & Lorrie Wendeborn

Scripture Reader - Alana Kemmy

Greeters - Sue Theis

Altar Flowers - Open

# Messiah's Staff & Leaders Directory With Addresses Redacted

## STAFF

**Pastor Richard Lofgren**

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**Gina Huskey - Messiah's Kids Preschool Director**

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**Youth Development - open**

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# HELLO JANUARY

NEW MONTH, NEW YEAR, NEW CHAPTER!



True leaders understand that leadership is not about them but about those they serve. It is not about exalting themselves but about lifting others up.

— Sheri L. Dew