

Messiah's Mission

Statement:

"Touching Lives With Christ"

**January
2022**

PASTORAL MUSINGS

January 2022

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,
Christ is born! Alleluia!**

Many of us grew up with the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Traditionally the twelve days of Christmas begin on December 25th and end on January 5th with the commemoration of the Feast of the Epiphany or Theophany of Christ on January 6th. For much of the history of the Christian Church, the Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated even more than Christmas, with only Easter and Pentecost holding more importance on the Church Calendar. Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi, and in the Early Church, also celebrated the birth and baptism of the Lord. Many Christian churches in Asia and the Middle East still celebrate all these events on January 6th as combined they fully reveal the Babe of Bethlehem as the promised Messiah. The Old Testament and Gospel readings appointed for the Epiphany of Our Lord talk about the significance of the visit of the Magi.

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This picture is a depiction of *The Adoration of the Magi* by 17th century artist Bartolome Esteban Murillo. Church tradition holds that the names of the Magi were Balthasar, Melchior, and Caspar (Gaspar). The adoration of the Magi was so important to the early Christians that on Epiphany it was common to have the priest come over to your house for an annual house blessing during which “B+M+C (year)” were written in chalk on the lintel of the front door, signifying that house being blessed by Christ Himself for that particular year.

Then, St. Paul, in the Epistle reading for the Epiphany, relates the fact that all that God the Father has decided to reveal to the world concerning His plan for salvation has been revealed in His Son, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.



Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

As we begin the year of our Lord 2022, let us, as the Christ Child has been fully revealed to us, bring that revelation to all the world, singing the praises of God the Father for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit living in us.

Numbers 6:22–27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the year of our Lord 2022,

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you ✠ peace.

Amen.

**In Service to the Messiah and All God’s People,
Pastor Scott**



Congregational Planning Retreat POSTPONED

Saturday

April 30th

9am – 4pm

Your church appreciates your attendance and input as we prayerfully seek God's guidance in the planning of Messiah's future and service to Him.

Be a Wise Man (or Woman or Child): Search for Jesus in 2022

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him". Matthew 2: 1-2.

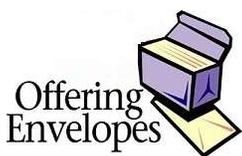
Shortly after Jesus birth, God provided a star for the wise men to follow to the birthplace of Jesus so that they could come and worship him. But over 2000 years later, what do we follow to search for Jesus so that we can worship him? Fortunately, God has provided His Church as a location to come and search for Jesus and worship him. Our search for Jesus begins at our baptism where the Holy Spirit pours out faith through water and the power of God's Word. Our infant faith is strengthened when we regularly read or hear God's Word. Faith is also strengthened by regularly receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion.

January is where many people make resolutions to improve their life. A weight loss goal is a typical resolution. Spending more time with family may be another. Why not make a resolution to begin to search or make a more concerted effort to search for Jesus in 2022? Below are a few suggestions to consider.

- If you or your children are not baptized, talk to Pastor Scott about having this done in early 2022.
- If you or your older children (6th grade and up) are not confirmed, talk to Pastor Scott about attending confirmation classes.
- Increase the number of times you attend church in 2022. If you would like to know how many times you attended in 2021, contact the church secretary. She enters weekly attendance by person in a computer application. Then make a resolution to increase that number in 2022.
- Bring your children to Sunday School.
- Attend Sunday morning Adult Bible Class.
- Read a devotional every day. The church provides the Portals of Prayers every quarter as a source of devotionals. Look for those on one of the tables as you enter the church building. Lutheran Hour Ministries also provides daily devotions at the following website: www.lhm.org.
- Attend the women's Bible study on Wednesday at 10:00 AM at church.
- Start a weekly or monthly small group Bible study among church members or neighbors.

Through the Power of the Holy Spirit and your participation in Word and Sacrament ministry, you will have a successful search for Jesus in 2022! All thanks to God the Father for providing His Church with faithful preachers and teachers as our guiding star. May You Have a Blessed 2022!

Robert Kunkel, Elder



2022 Offering Envelopes

The 2022 offering envelopes are here. Please pick yours up from the table in the narthex. If you don't have an assigned envelope number and want one, please contact Judy Kunkel.

2021 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2021 will be available soon after the new year. In 2021, under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), single U.S. taxpayers can deduct up to \$300 in charitable donations made in 2021 even if they choose to take the standard deduction. Married couples can deduct up to \$600 of charitable donations for 2021 even if they take the standard deduction. Your church contribution statements will serve as proof of these donations.

END OF YEAR
GIVING
STATEMENTS



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet beginning Wednesday, January 5 at 10 a.m. in the Narthex at Messiah. On the 5th, we will study Mary, the last study in "Be Thou My Guide". On Wednesday, January 12, we will begin the study "Soul Spa" by Sharla Fritz. During this 8-week study, we will sample 28 different experiences that will help you draw upon the spiritual renewal that only the Holy Spirit offers. He will soothe your hurts and fill you with hope. He will nurture your soul with grace and mercy and peace. Please join us in 2022. All members and friends are invited and encouraged to join us.

Sunday School

All children are invited to Sunday School in 2022. This is a great time to begin this experience with your children. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class begin at 8:45 every Sunday morning. Children and adults of all ages are invited and encouraged to join us as we study God's word and learn about Jesus. Classes are available for all ages.



Our Church's New Mobile App is Here!

We are pleased to announce we have an upgraded mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile. This new mobile app will be replacing GivePlus Mobile. With Vanco Mobile, you can send one-time donations or set recurring gifts.

How Do You Download Vanco Mobile?

It's easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free. **Be sure to download this app soon, as GivePlus Mobile will be retired as of January 31st, 2022.**

To give using Vanco Mobile, follow these five easy steps:

- Search for our church by **name**, or **city**
- Select your gift amount, fund and frequency.
- Enter your payment method. (You can save this information for future use!)
- Choose whether you want to cover processing fees.
- Click **Submit** to complete your donation.

Happy New Year!!

2022 came so fast. We had an amazing end of the year/Christmas program. I am so very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful school program. We are still actively searching to fill our Pre-K class. They must have been 4 by September 1, 2021. I have 4 available spots! Please email Ms. Liz if you know of someone that may be interested.



Flower Calendar

Please consider writing your name on a date of our flower calendar located in the Narthex and help us beautify the Altar for services! Flowers can be purchased from the store or florist of your choice and brought to the church on your Sunday. For your convenience, vases are available in the cabinet above the sink in the kitchen. Thank you in advance!



Altar Help

The signup sheet is on the fridge in the kitchen to with the communion ware on Sunday mornings. Volunteer now for monthly rotation, it is a very important part of every service. Laura Lopez is always ready to help you learn. This is for an individual person or a family to assist in preparation for the service. Please consider this opportunity to serve your church and fellow believers.

LWML

Women of Messiah, our monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18th, at 7:00pm. Please make plans to attend!



Volunteers Needed

The Board of Elders is looking to fill the position of head usher. The head usher responsibility is to recruit, train, schedule, and remind ushers of their assignments for worship services. Pastor Herbert has agreed to help with the training part. Messiah also needs as many members as possible to usher on a rotating basis. Ushering is a way to serve the Lord in a worship setting. It hopefully gives members another reason to attend worship more often. If you feel called to serve in this way, contact Pastor Herbert or Robert Kunkel.

Spotlight on Mite Grants

Propelling the Gospel - LAMP Ministry, Inc. — \$65,000 Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots (LAMP) Ministry, Inc. has been using small aircraft to take the Gospel message to the Indigenous people in the most remote areas of northern Canada. Each year, hundreds of volunteer missionaries from the United States travel to teach vacation Bible school to thousands of children in remote northern communities. LAMP's ministry is highly dependent on the two aircrafts that they use in order to get their missionaries to these places so they can bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who so desperately need to hear the Good News. The aircraft has evolved over the years, and upgrades must be made to ensure safety and the ability for LAMP's missionaries and pilots to reach remote communities only accessible by air. Avionic instrument upgrades in the aircrafts are a costly investment. The Garmin GTX 345 model works best, not only with classical ground-based radar systems, but it also provides ADS-B input and output for both the American and Canadian/Aireon systems.



Educating Pastors in Africa - Mission Central — \$100,000 God is calling African men to become pastors. These men of faith know the culture and how best to share God's truth and the love of Christ in their native country. Matongo Lutheran Theological College, Kenya, East Africa, is a confessional Lutheran college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), which is in Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). This theological college is in need of support funding. Grant funds will be used for pastoral education projects, including scholarships and seminary needs in Kenya, Togo West Africa, and Uganda, as well as general support of six missionaries — five pastors and one layman.

Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021



The meeting was called to order by Vice President David Schrader. David gave an opening prayer. A quorum was present with the following in attendance-Judy Kunkel, David and Sharon Schrader, Evelyn and John Polen, and Marge and Noe Lopez. Since we don't have a Council Secretary, Judy Kunkel was appointed to take minutes.

The minutes of the October meeting were read. With a minor correction to the name of Mt. Olive Lutheran church, the minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report – none

Financial Secretary's report is attached.

Treasurer's Report is attached.

Evangelism Report-none

Education Report-Sharon Schrader reported that MDO has 33 children enrolled and for Thanksgiving, parents will be invited for songs, lunch with their children and pie provided by MDO. The Sunday School Christmas program will explain the story of the Candy Cane and is being directed by Erika Larson. The program will be during the service on Dec. 19th.

Trustee's Report- the chair was not present but the need to work on the leaky roof and steeple leak was discussed.

Fellowship report- Marge Lopez reported that we will have the Thanksgiving feast and Advent meals. Council members signed up to bring items for the second Advent meal.

Stewardship Report – John Polen will be helping on the Stewardship committee. A time and talent survey was discussed.

Youth Report - none

Vice President-David commended the Larson girls for ushering. More ushers are needed and women are welcome.

President's report – A discussion was held on the need for climate controlled storage. Several possibilities were discussed. A committee will be needed to look at options.

Old Business-none.

New Business was covered in the President's report.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

**-Judy Kunkel
Acting Secretary**

OUR MILITARY



Gary Roznovsky, LCDR – Naval Aviator – Alexandria, VA

Cheyenne Wilson, HS School – USCG – Petaluma, CA

Dillon Anderson, PFC – Fayetteville, NC

Brandin Diamond, SSG – USAF – Deployed, Japan

Cristopher Diamond, PV2 – USAC – Deployed, Korea



Continued Prayers Requested For:

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Marlene DePau, Pastor Jim & Margaret Sturgis, William Bluntzer, Kathy Jennings, Pam Luckenbach, Louise Diamond, and Chris Phillips, Doug & Judy Wilson.

MEETINGS

<u>ELDER'S:</u>	Thursday, Jan. 6th – 7 pm
<u>ELDER STUDY:</u>	Thursday, Jan. 13 th – 7 pm
<u>LWML:</u>	Tuesday, Jan. 17 th – 7 pm
<u>COUNCIL:</u>	Thursday, Jan. 20 th – 7pm

January Servers

Elder:	Jon Larson
Acolyte:	Whitney Larson
Altar:	
Usher:	

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> Louise Diamond's birthday 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> Noe (Jr.) Lopez Jr.'s birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> Abigail Perkins's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> Robert and Cheryl Patten's anniversary Canceled: New Year's Eve Service	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> Justin and Amy Perkins's anniversary Larry and Tammy Buxkamper's anniversary Whitney Larson's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> 10am Women's Bible Study	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> 7pm- Elder Meeting	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> Cheryl Strong's baptism Judy Kunkel's baptism Kristi Kirchoff's birthday
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> 10am Women's Bible Study	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> 7pm- Elder Study	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> Tom Griffith's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> 7pm LWML meeting	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> 10am Women's Bible Study	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> 7pm- Council Meeting Newsletter Items DUE	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> Paul Crozier's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> Kelsi Luckenbach's baptism 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> 10am Women's Bible Study	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> Audrey Bluntzer's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> Sharon Schrader's birthday 9am-4pm Congregational Planning Retreat
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School-Children 10am Divine Service	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> Teo McDonald's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> Kate and Jay Womack's anniversary	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> 10am Women's Bible Study	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> Margarita Lopez's birthday	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>