

# Messiah Messenger

Caring for and serving others so all may share in God's love.

**January 2024  
Volume 62  
Issue 1**



## **Rides with "Gray Lady II" A Message from the Pastor**

"Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma ministry partner) and I were heading over to Messiah to get ready for the Candlelight Christmas Eve service. It was the middle of the day and the sun was shining. "Gray Lady II" had taken notice that I was driving with the driver's side window down. She must have thought I was a little daft having the window open in the latter part of December. Maybe she felt a bit of a draft. She asked me what was wrong with me having the window open. I said it was nice out and we were lucky to have such pleasant weather at the beginning of winter. She just coughed an "ugh," and continued on. Those days of comfortable weather were really a gift to us and I surely took advantage of such.

When we think of gifts, we usually think of presents. You know, those tangible items which bring joy to one's heart, especially children. Also, a run to the store to get the appropriate batteries to power said items. The giving of gifts is also enjoyable. Nothing better than seeing surprise and

elation as the gifts are opened. The giving of gifts is really a statement of thinking about another person. A person could just buy what is advertised as the latest thing which everyone wants. But in reality, that is not the case.

The person getting the gift is able to feel with loving appreciation the thought put forth in providing a nice and thoughtful present. It is not the value, hopefully, which pleases someone; but the care of giving from one's heart to the heart of someone-else.

The Christmas services were just a few days ago and really brought home the love God presented as a gift to us. Yet, while we can be cantankerous, cynical, unappreciative people: let's just say it, "sinners", God presented us a present beyond our comprehension: love in a baby. And not just any baby, but His son.

Imagine the joy flowing out of the heart of God as He contemplated and made available His gift of love to the whole world. We, too, should have a powerful feeling inside each of us when we contemplate what was given to us freely. God chose to send His Son to be a part of our world to show His gift of love in everyday life and beyond. We received in the birth of this little baby born in Bethlehem salvation and a closeness to the Holy of Holies which we could never have provided for ourselves. A gift of invitation to be a part of His Kingdom and a people of His glory.

May we share that gift with the world. May we help in our actions and prayers show our faithfulness to the caring love of Christ, the Son of God. Enjoy His peace in your hearts. Allow His Holy Spirit to permeate all of your life and sense His gift of grace and mercy in all you do.

May the Lord's peace be with you each and every day.  
Pastor Doug

# January Scripture 2024

<b><u>January 7<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Genesis 1:1-5</b> <b>Psalm 29</b> <b>Acts 19:1-7</b> <b>Mark 1:4-11</b>	<b><u>January 14<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]</b> <b>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</b> <b>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</b> <b>John 1:43-51</b>
<b><u>January 21<sup>st</sup></u></b> <b>Jonah 3:1-5, 10</b> <b>Psalm 62:5-12</b> <b>1 Corinthians 7:29-31</b> <b>Mark 1:14-20</b>	<b><u>January 28<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</b> <b>Psalm 111</b> <b>1 Corinthians 8:1-13</b> <b>Mark 1:21-28</b>

## January 2024 NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Messiah Lutheran Church Women Women Officers**

President: Rosemary Butler  
 Secretary: Irene Aldredge  
 Treasurer: Dotty Dahl

### **Mission Lead Ladies**

Growth: Lorraine Davis  
 Action: Charlotte Moritomo  
 Community: Dotty Dahl  
 Historian: TBD

**Sew and Share** will meet January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

**MLCW Bible Study** will meet January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

**Council meeting** will take place **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** this month at **6:30 p.m.** (On Zoom)

<p><b>Sunday Worship</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom) Fellowship following service</p> <p><b>Weekday Bible Study</b> Wednesday's at 9:30 am</p> <p><b>Council Meeting</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday this Month at 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>MLC Women</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month at 9:30 am</p> <p><b>Sew &amp; Share</b> 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</p> <p><b>Craft Class</b> Up and running Contact for meeting time</p> <p><b>Rising Sun Christian Community</b> 11:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p><b>Pastor Doug Mathison</b> <a href="mailto:office@messiahbq.org">office@messiahbq.org</a></p> <p><b>Director of Music</b> Katherine Alexander <a href="mailto:kalex@unm.edu">kalex@unm.edu</a></p> <p><b>Building &amp; Grounds</b> Carlo Bachechi</p> <p><b>Church Office</b> <a href="mailto:office@messiahbq.org">office@messiahbq.org</a> 505-299-3311</p>	<p>Please keep in your prayers our family and friends who are in need of our prayers this month. Prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baby Athena</li> <li>• Carol Hartenberger</li> <li>• Harlan Wilson</li> <li>• Stephanie</li> <li>• Dotty Dahl</li> <li>• Pat Baca &amp; Family</li> <li>• Irene Aldredge</li> <li>• Carole Baker</li> <li>• Loring Emery</li> <li>• Jacen Hoyt</li> </ul> <p><b>Serving In the Military</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Braund</li> <li>• Daniel Vickers (Navy)</li> <li>• Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves)</li> </ul>
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## **For the Love of Our Neighborhood...** **January 2024 ~Exciting News for Our Neighbors**

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN**

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. We will be meeting on Saturday, **January 13, 2024**, at 9:30 am in the Messiah Conference Room. The Bible study from the W-ELCA magazine "Gather" will be used.

### **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The study meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am. We usually meet in the Conference Room at Messiah, unless we need to be at appropriately socially distanced. The study is traditionally a study of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel lesson and other designated lessons. You can bring your own Bible, otherwise, there will be handouts of the scripture made available to you.

### **KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL and TOMASITA GRADE SCHOOL NEWS**

**We helped a family from Tomasita who receive a special Christmas.** Thank you to everyone who gave Christmas gifts for the family, and Rosemary for taking them over to Tomasita. Also, to Ron who donated ten packages of food for Ed to distribute to students.

### **2023 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Thank you to the newly elected officers for their willingness to guide us through the next year in doing the Lord's work.

President: Ron Kulju  
V. Pres.: Brian Osterloh  
Secretary: Pat Baca  
Treasurer: K. D. Pass  
Fin. Sec't.: Cecelia Pepper  
At Large: Kristi Adams  
At Large: Debra Hoyt

(The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. We have been meeting in person at the church and on ZOOM.)

### **RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

They are still meeting in our building and enjoy being with us on Sundays. They have been having fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. They joined us for the "Sway Meet" on Saturday, September 16. That was a good day. They joined us for the annual Trunk or Treat event on Monday, October 30, from 5-6:30 pm. We have made a quarterly

arrangement to see to keeping paper and cleaning supplies up to date. **Rising Sun will provide supplies for January, February and March.**

### **WORSHIP AT MESSIAH**

We had a wonderful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It was filled with many people singing Christmas hymns and a special performance of "O Holy Night" by the choir. Christmas day service was wonderful, with many carols sung and Scripture read.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH**

- 1) **Sew and Share**—They will meet of the first and third Tuesdays of each month. They will meet in the Conference Room, at 9:30 am, with some food and fellowship following. Come and have a great time putting together quilts and working with other members of the church. There had been no gatherings in August, the next gatherings will be **January 16, 2024** (no gathering on January 2). They decided this past year to make quilts for the **Linus Project** and **Saranam**. The theme of the Linus Project is "Covering New Mexico with Love." You are invited to participate in any way you feel you are able to assist in these projects.
- 2) We are in need of volunteers to help our worship services: PowerPoint/ZOOM (run the system); Offering Counters (count, record and deposit the offering); Altar Guild, Fellowship time treats and other activities throughout the year. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- 3) **VISION COMMITTEE:** We have a great opportunity to be in conversation with Holy Cross Lutheran Church. A few members from our church council and vision committee and some similar from Holy Cross met on November 15, 2023. It is exciting to be consider this association with that congregation. We had a real good conversation (Ron, Brian, Steve, Cecelia and Pastor Doug were present representing Messiah). Please visit with any of them for more information and if you have any concerns or ideas. We will be doing some more work in January, with a report and conversation at the Annual Meeting.
- 4) **Flowers:** We are looking for people to bring flowers to adorn our flower shelf behind the altar. There is a flower chart on the big bulletin board by the Narthex Door if you would like to pick a certain Sunday.
- 5) **Choir.** We would love to have more members as part of our choir. We practice after services on Sunday morning in the Conference Room.
- 6) **Property:** We need to fix the landscape at the southeast corner of our parking lot. We are in the process of hiring a new custodian. **We have notified by the City that we need to replace some of our sidewalk adjacent to Lomas Blvd NE.** Council has been in contact with the city and we will be working on getting

that project done. Also, we had to replace ten feet of waste sewage piping below the Fellowship Hall. And, we had to replace a broken window in the Fellowship Hall.

- 7) **Saranam:** This is a caring facility for homeless families, not too far from Messiah. It is on Eubank and they provide housing, education, and community involvement opportunities.
- 8) Schedule:  
     Sunday, January 21, following worship: Annual Meeting  
     Wednesday, February 14 is Ash Wednesday,
- 9) **Church Council** nominees for 2024 are needed.

## Financial Reports

### Treasurer Report October 2023

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$8,192.15	\$96,762.40
Expense	\$9,308.39	\$70,900.01
Net	-\$1,116.24	\$25,862.39
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$147,266.43	\$145,121.03
MM	\$18,649.27	\$18,649.42

### Treasurer Report November 2023

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$10,123.16	\$106,885.56
Expense	\$8,093.93	\$78,993.94
Net	\$2,029.23	\$27,891.62
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$145,121.03	\$149,375.34
MM	\$18,649.42	\$18,649.58

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
			9:30 am Bible Study			
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am MLCW Bible Study
14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew and Share  6:30 pm Church Council	9:30 am Bible Study			
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			
28.	29.	30.	31.			
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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