

Messiah Messenger

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

December 2020

Volume 58

Issue 10



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

The Advent Season is one of preparation and anticipation. We look for the return of the victorious Savior of our sinful world. We anticipate a time when we will be one with our Lord in a time of peace and harmony. We will know sin no more. We will know death no more. We will know the bright light of Christ's glory as we sit before His heavenly throne.

The Advent Season is the pathway to our understanding of Christmas Day. The people at the time of Jesus were longing for a Messiah, a Savior to redeem their world. On Christmas Day, Christ met their expectations and anticipations in the manger, on our earth, as part of our being. His life and ministry met their anticipatory hopes, and yet, not all were ready to accept. Therefore, comes His death and Resurrection, and His post-resurrection ministry through the faithful disciples and early Church.

Our world today cherishes Christmas in all its lights and tinsel. The anticipatory nature of Advent for the salvation of the world to enter gets overshadowed. Admittedly, part of the Christmas celebrations of the day are for commercial gratification and our mortal need to lift up special times to promote a significant hope in our hearts. We like to be a part of something beyond ourselves.

I have to admit that when "Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup) and I drive about the neighborhoods of our town at night we enjoy seeing the lights and decorations. They are beautiful and creative. They typify not only the Christmas message of the baby Messiah born into our world but also many good depictions of the good images blossoming from the warm messages of our culture over time. People need to show their participation in a great season of hope, especially this year.

We need to have a vision of said hope of a power beyond ourselves and a goodness which flows from our faith in a holy gift of life through Christ. We need to anticipate being in a state of readiness to receive the gift of Christ's redemption. It is in our constant preparedness to receive the Lord that makes it possible for us to realize its coming. We are one with Christ as we prepare, anticipate, as being one with Him.

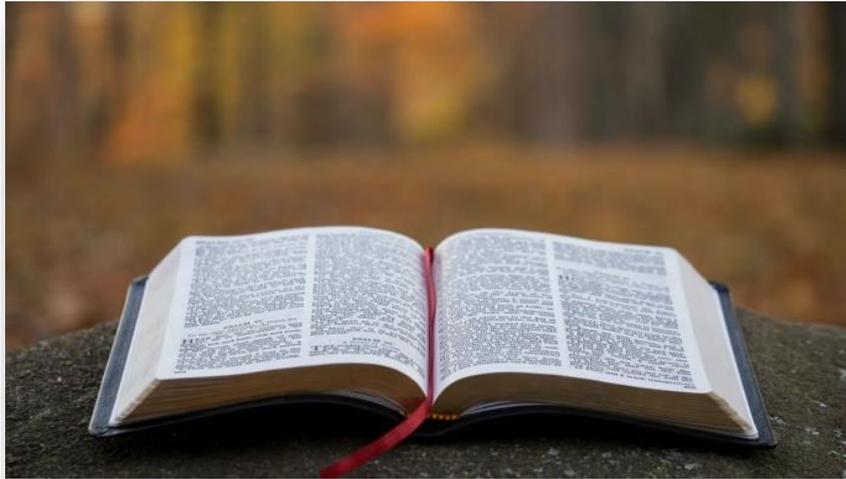
I anticipate a long period of time with "Gray Lady II" being my ministry partner. I regularly see that she is in her best running condition. I anticipate her oil changes and services by doing the mileage against her next service mileage. I pay attention to when the service shop hours are available for her care. I listen to her life sounds as she runs, and I take care to look at her particular parts with anticipation for replacement appointments. It is in the anticipation of her needs that I make ready for her to be fully functional for our adventures.

Advent anticipation calls us in hope to be ready for the salvanic adventure Christ has promised His people. As we make ourselves ready for the Coming of the Day of Christ in Glory, we need to make ourselves available for the great ride Christ has prepared for those who follow His call daily. Christ came into our world not to condemn it but save it. I live my life in that maxim of Christ's will. I anticipate and make myself ready at all times to be faithfully available to be in His arms of glory and upon the ride of His bringing all things unto himself. One of my favorite coffee mugs I received as a gift many years ago. It is Christmas decoration beautiful and has the words I love to realize in my faith: "Jesus is the reason for the season."

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



December Scripture 2020



December 6th

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20th

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (alternate)
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 27th

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m. - Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom) Fellowship: TBA

Weekday Bible Study Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday – 6:30 p.m.

MLC Women

Restart TBA

Sew & Share

Restart TBA

Crafty Class

Restart TBA

Rising Sun Christian Community

Restart TBA

Pastor Doug Mathison

office@messiahbq.org

Director of Music

Tony Carson

tony@messiahbq.org

Building & Grounds

Carlo Bachechi

Church Office office@messiahbq.org

505-299-3311

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.

- ◆ Bill Eve
- ◆ Janice Buffo
- ◆ Elizabeth
- ◆ Carole & Bill Baker
- ◆ Barbara Bachechi
- ◆ Loring Emery
- ◆ Marian Kulju
- ◆ Helga Lindner
- ◆ Cecilia Pepper
- ◆ Betty Lou Harvey
- ◆ Martin Osterloh
- ◆ Dotty Dahl
- ◆ Doreen Barelo
- ◆ Toby Carson
- ◆ Kathy Adams
- ◆ Pat Baca & Family
- ◆ Irene Aldredge
- ◆ Kellen Tetrault

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

- ◆ Matt Braund
- ◆ Allen J. Tetreault (KAFB)
- ◆ Daniel Vickers (Navy)
- ◆ Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves)

For the Love of Our Neighborhood...
December 2020 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

MLCW monthly meetings for the rest of the year are postponed for the time being. As soon as we know when they will reconvene, it will be announced.

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have been in contact with KMS new interim Community Communicator, Edna Torres. She and I talked about what we could do to help families of the school leading into the Holiday Season. We will eblast to all of as soon as all practicalities are in order.

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

President: Cassandra Osterloh
Vice President: Dave Hartenberger
Secretary: Ron Kulju
Treasurer: Lee Danielson
Financial Secretary: Steve McHenry

At Large:
Debra Hoyt
Carlo Bachechi
Rosemary Butler
KD Pass

RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Rising Sun Christian Community has not been worshipping at our building for the past few months due to the response for health concerns levied within the state. They have been worshipping like us in a digital format off-site. They are not sure when they plan to begin worshipping back at the Messiah building. They hope to start worshipping back in the Messiah Sanctuary the week before Christmas. We look forward to seeing them about our place and sharing in the Good News of our Lord and Savior. Pastor Vangie and her congregation say hello.

WORSHIP at Messiah - 2020

We have been doing our worship by ZOOM and with some in-church worshipers. We pray that this has helped you stay in touch with the Word of the Lord and each other. We have also been emailing or mailing Exposition of the Weekly Worship and Lessons. We have been allowing a few members to worship on site, following all the appropriate health precautions. We are getting a nice group of worshipers at Messiah on Sunday each week. We keep working to offer the best worship and Bible Study opportunities possible. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra, K. D., and Tony for making all this possible.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH (projected)

- 1) Wednesday Morning Bible Study – We started meeting again on June 17, 2020, at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to meet as long as we feel we are able to do so safely, while following state health guidelines.
- 2) Sew and Share – has not set a getting back to quilt making at the church, yet. They are trying to put together a quilt for each of our high school graduates. If you have someone in your family graduating from high school this upcoming Spring, please let the office know.
- 3) Men’s Morning Bible Study - No plans have been made to resume.
- 4) Tony Carson and our worship music update
There will be a special worship service at Messiah on Sunday, December 13, 2020. There will be Christmas Carol’s sung (your choice) and Tony will have us look at the texts and music to further along his class work with narrative discussion.
- 5) All Saints’ Sunday
We will be celebrating All Saints’ Sunday, November 1, 2020. At this service we will be remembering our dearly departed loved ones who now reside in the loving arms of Our Lord, since last November.
- 6) Annual Meeting
We traditionally have our Annual Meeting on the third Sunday of the month (January 17, 2021). How we will be meeting will be set closer to that date if it is approved by the Church Council. We will be needing people to **volunteer to be nominees for the new Church Council**. We also will need to set our new budget for 2021 before the Annual Meeting.
Also, by the end of the month and the first week of January, we will need to be getting our reports together for the Annual Meeting.
- 7) Luther House - UNM
“Carols and Cheers” will be held again this year, yet remotely. The great event is an opportunity for those who support the ministry of Luther House to visit with each other, sing, and donate. The event is on Sunday, December 6, 2020, 2:00 pm MST. If you want more information on how to connect electronically or donate go to the Luther House website (www.lutherhousenm.org) or contact Pastor Bre Roberts at [pastor.bre.roberts@gmail](mailto:pastor.bre.roberts@gmail.com)



Narrative Project

Hi all,

I appreciate all the kind words you folks have offered since my 40th Anniversary Sunday. As I said that day, I can't believe I'm old enough to have done anything for 40 years. I also explained that part of the service was engineered to fulfill a requirement for my Doctor of Ministry coursework. The intent was to expose the congregation to a relatively new form of therapy called "Narrative Practice" (or therapy depending on whom one reads).

In short, the Narrative Practitioner listens to another's story or narrative. That could be a client, friend, relative, coworker or stranger. The Practitioner, then points out things about that story they appreciate, wonder (as in WOW), notice and about which to be curious. The storyteller then re-tells their narrative considering the appreciations, wonders, noticing and curiosities. Hopefully, the storyteller finds within their story an alternate narrative that they may not have realized is there. It is similar to seeing the deleted scenes from a movie. There found on the cutting room floor may be the clues to lead to healing and transformation.

So, I need the assistance of the congregation for this semester's final project. On the 2nd Sunday of Advent, I am going to ask that you take a moment and find things you appreciate, wonder, notice and find curious in the scripture readings for that Sunday. I will provide time and a means for the sharing of those. I will collect the information and incorporate into the project. Thanks in advance and I appreciate you all!!!!

Tony Carson

December 2020 NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

	<p>Council meetings take place the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)</p>
<p>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</p>	
	<p>The Annual Meeting will be held January 17, 2020. We are looking for volunteers to be nominees for the new Church Council.</p>

OCTOBER 2020 Monthly Expenses Report

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	US\$7,625.99	US\$75,886.06
Expense	US\$10,153.43	US\$64,022.17
Net	US-\$2,527.44	US+\$11,863.89
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	US\$85,913.66	US\$83,248.56
MM	US\$8,642.98	US\$8,643.33

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
			9:30 am Bible Study			
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
9:30 am Worship (No fellowship)		6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study			
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
9:30 am Worship (No fellowship)			9:30 am Bible Study			
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
9:30 am Worship (No fellowship)			9:30 am Bible Study	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	10:30 am Christmas Worship	
27.	28.	29.	30.	31.		
9:30 am Worship (No fellowship)			9:30 am Bible Study			

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