



Messiah Messenger

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

December 2021

Volume 59

Issue 12



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

We have moved through Thanksgiving weekend and are now on our way into the Advent Season looking excitedly to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We have through the year had many expectations filled with hope and strength, as we traveled through the COVID-19 inconveniences and fears. But here we are today looking forward with the vision of the Holy Spirit for all things good in Christ. Let not our time of prayers ever be shortened by the calamities of the world but cause to be extended with the faithful knowledge that our Risen Lord hears and provides.

We, as a congregation have been so challenged by the ways of the day about us, and yet, here we are again with a sacred focus on the ways the Lord blesses—

individually and corporately. Nothing can stop the dedicated Christian filled with the Spirit from being one who can look past a trouble and find a way to make it an event of thanksgiving. As your pastor, I thank all of you who do take the initiative to see from our little spot in the universe that the grace of Christ can be bestowed on those who seek His aid and comfort.

The other day, "Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup and ministry partner) were blessed with one of these opportunities. She was joined by two other vehicles and a fine group of caring people (both there and in spirit through loving giving). On a Tuesday morning in November, we all met at the church and put together food bags for ten families from Kennedy Middle School for Thanksgiving break. This food for KMS families was possible because of the inner kindness of many. We were able to provide perishable and non-perishable foods.

We filled two vehicles along with "Gray Lady II" and met Edna at the school. Over the next couple days, she would present each of the ten families with this magnificent gathering of food (and love). "Gray Lady II" and I had been doing some earlier work buying and storing the perishable foods. She got a joy out of the shopping spree (three food stores in all). I could hear it in the humming of her engine.

This event which your love of the neighbor flourished was a gift opened to us about four years ago. I can still remember Peggy, the new school community communicator at KMS. She had been at her new posting for one month when she came meekly and caringly to our office door. She told me that she did not know what to even ask of us or how to do it. She had a desire to be available to help families with food shortages at KMS and wondered if there was any way we could help. It was a pleasure watching her come to ease as I said I would look into it. Within a week the Lord provided a plan and the means, and here we are today. The Lord does provide for those in need and for those who desire to help tend to that need. We now have Edna to help in the Lord's work at Thanksgiving, and other times. I dare not forget those specific opportunities we have had and are having for people in need because members call out to us to help their neighbors (i.e., one of our Christmas Family Giving Trees is for a family Pat Baca had asked of us to consider and care for this Christmas).

We never know when we will get an opportunity to help our neighbor. Sometimes the Spirit places us in a moment where unbeknownst to us we are able to make a difference for someone-else's situation. "Gray Lady II" reminded me of such a situation. We had gone to the Smith's grocery store up by our house on the way home from the office. We parked in the lot at no particular spot, except it was open and easy for "Gray Lady II" to slide into comfortably. We shopped, pushed the cart

out to the vehicle, unloaded and put the cart back in the empty cart corral. I had not seen anyone standing around the vehicles in the row to the east of our spot.

I got into "Gray Lady II" and started the engine making ready to back out. As tradition would have it, I always check all the mirrors and the backup camera which is in the windshield mirror. It was like "Gray Lady II" wanted me to look in my driver's side mirror before I shifted into reverse. Right there, in the middle of her driver's side mirror, in the row behind us, was a woman standing between some vehicles. She looked like she might be crying as her hands periodically would go up behind her classes. I could sense that "Gray Lady II" felt good when I turned off the engine, removed the key and proceeded to get out to go toward the lady.

As I got closer, I could see she was crying and maybe half my age. She had some papers in her hand (turned out to be damp newspaper). I thought maybe she had gotten locked out of her car or something. I approached her and asked if she was in distress, and she answered yes. I asked then, if she wanted to share with me her trouble. She really started crying as she told me that she and her young son had just been evicted from their apartment and she was looking for some money to help her get food and lodging. She said she would wash my windows for some money.

As it was, the side windows of "Gray Lady II" needed some attention. She gratefully went over to "Gray Lady II" and started to wash the side windows with the little piece of newspaper she had. I gave her some money and a roll of paper towels I carried in the vehicle (available for Grand-daughter spills). As we parted, a smile on her face and a bit of sadness in her voice, she again said thank you. She said I was the first person to help her out that afternoon.

I could tell "Gray Lady II" was pleased and so was I. I do not know how her afternoon went from that point on. I do not know if she may or may not have been in the situation she was in at that moment. I was not going to let my inner cynicism overtake the good effort put forth on her behalf by "Gray Lady II" and me. In my prayers the next morning, I put the nameless needy woman in my prayers, and I pray all had gotten better for her.

God be praised and thanked for the opportunities His people of faith are able to partake in and lovingly make a difference.

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



December Scripture 2021



<p><u>December 5th</u> Malachi 3:1-4 Baruch 5:1-9 (alternate) Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6</p>	<p><u>December 12th</u> Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18</p>
<p><u>December 19th</u> Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Psalm 80:1-7 (alternate) Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]</p>	<p><u>December 26th</u> 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52</p>



<p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom) Fellowship following service</p> <p>Weekday Bible Study Wednesday at 9:30 am</p> <p>Council Meeting 2nd Tuesday this Month at 6:30 pm</p> <p>MLC Women Restart TBA</p> <p>Sew & Share Restart TBA</p> <p>Craft Class Restart TBA</p> <p>Rising Sun Christian Community 11:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Pastor Doug Mathison office@messiahbq.org</p> <p>Director of Music Tony Carson tony@messiahbq.org</p> <p>Building & Grounds Carlo Bachechi</p> <p>Church Office office@messiahbq.org 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"> • Jacen Hoyt • Dotty Dahl • Doreen Barelo • Pat Baca & Family Irene Aldredge • Kellen Tetrault • Gerald Kruger • DeAnna Dahm • Carole Baker • Loring Emery • Marian Kulju • Helga Lindner <p>Serving In the Military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Braund • Daniel Vickers (Navy) • Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves)
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For the Love of Our Neighborhood...

December 2021 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

All monthly meetings are still postponed for the time being, except the Wednesday morning Bible Study (in person) and Church Council (in person and ZOOM). As soon as the MLCW knows when they will reconvene, it will be announced. (Prayerfully soon)

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thanksgiving KMS Family Food drive for ten families. We collected non-perishable food and perishable food (sliced ham/turkey, butter, cheese and bread), bagged it all up and delivered on Tuesday, November 16. Thank you to all of you. We hope to do a drive for a family of KMS for Christmas. We will need to deliver the gifts and food on Tuesday morning, December 14.

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

President: Ron Kulju
Vice President: Debra Hoyt
Secretary: Rebecca Hauge
Treasurer: Lee Danielson
Financial Secretary: Steve McHenry
At Large:
 Rosemary Butler
 KD Pass

(The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. We are going to try to meet in person in the Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM.)

RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Rising Sun Christian Community are once again worshipping in our building and with a digital format for those not in the building. Their "Praise Band" has been practicing on Saturdays at Messiah. Pastor Vangie and her congregation say hello.

WORSHIP at Messiah - 2021

We will continue 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 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 are now having a "Grab and Go/Stay and Chat" following worship in the Fellowship Hall.** We keep working to offer the best worship and Bible Study opportunities possible. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra, K. D. Pass, Rosemary Butler, Steve McHenry, and Tony for making all this possible.

WORSHIP with our more traditional Holy Communion----We have been since June 13, 2021, moved closer to our traditional way of doing Holy Communion during the service. It has been going pretty well and we are doing our best to respect the health of each other with mask wearing and social distancing. Pastor Doug explains the process before distribution of the elements for the worshipers to follow, both in the building and on ZOOM.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH (projected)

- 1) Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 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. We ask that those attending to once again bring your own Bibles, and Pastor Doug will have copies ready for the appropriate text of study. (Of course, coffee will be made, and also, we ask those attending not to leave personal items in your vehicle.)
- 2) Sew and Share – has not set a getting back to quilt making at the church, yet.
- 3) Men's Morning Bible Study - No plans have been made to resume.
- 4) We are in need of volunteers to help our worship services: PowerPoint/ZOOM for worship (and at other special times) and Sunday offering Counters (who would count, record and deposit the offering.) We will provide people who know how to do these things tutor volunteers.
- 5) We have set Sunday, January 16, 2022, following the worship service, for our **Annual Meeting.**

- 7) We will be needing members to consider being on next year's Church Council. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to be on the ballot for a Church Council position.
- 8) Advent/Christmas Schedule for December 2021
 Sunday, December 12, 9:30 service—Choir will perform special music
 Friday, December 24, 7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, HC
 Saturday, December 25, 10:30 am—Christmas Day Service
 Sunday, December 26, 9:30 am—Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 9) Christmas Family Tree
 There is a tree with tags on it for three children (2 girls, 1 boy). The family is a neighbor of the Baca's and have fallen on hard times with the father in a very serious health condition. They need our love and may they have smiles during a difficult and scary time. Grab some tags and bring the wrapped gifts with the tags taped to them to the tree in the Narthex by Sunday, December 19, 2021. (Contact pastor if you need to bring them in during the week)

Treasurer Report October 2021

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$5,753.73	\$74,576.78
Expense	\$10,784.35	\$68,652.49
Net	-\$5,030.62	\$12,064.22
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$101,670.52	\$97,133.03
MM	\$13,645.95	\$13,645.05



CHEER FOR THE NEW YEAR!!!

Blessed is he [they] who comes in the name of the Lord!
(Psalm 118:26a)

We are coming to the end of another year. A year that was a challenge, yet a blessing. We have made it through with all the inconveniences and concerns brought on by the COVID-19. The Lord has been with us as He promised, and we have been able to worship Him with our hearts filled with thankfulness. The Lord helped us keep our heads high above the potential fears and reasons to pack it in. So let us cheer for what the year has brought to us in Christ's hope and strength.

We can cheer for what we have been able to do as a congregation for the Lord, our congregation and our community, especially these past months which bring a close to the year. In September, after many postponements, we were able to have our community "Summer Fair." Many people donated and volunteered to have a great neighborhood activity at our church.

Then in October, again with the efforts of many members, we were able to have our traditional Halloween "Trunk or Treat." We were greeted with good weather and many children and participants in costumes. A lot of food and candy disappeared into excited children's bags.

November brought another annual benefit from our congregation to the ten families of Kennedy Middle School for Thanksgiving. We had hundreds of dollars donated for perishable foods and many, many, many bags and boxes of nonperishable foods. It was amazing the bags of nonperishable and perishable food we sorted, bagged and took to Edna (Community Communicator for KMS) to be distributed amongst the needy families.

In December, once again we will be thinking of others with giving from our hearts. We want to bring cheer to at least one family who has had a terrible situation affect their family.

The Church Council would like to bring the cheer of this year into the opening of nest year. "Cheer for the New Year" is to have us feel the goodness which the Lord gives us when we come forth in His name. As we go into the New Year, we would like to do it with a special "Cheer." If you are able, it would be a blessed "Cheer" if you could give a little special gift to the Lord's Messiah Lutheran Church.

This special gift from your hearts and faith will be used in two ways: half for our HVAC fund and half for the General Fund. Just mark your gift— "Cheer for the New Year."

Thank you and God Bless! Enjoy the rest of this year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. And with hope and strength in our Lord's faith find "Cheer" in the New Year.

In Christ's Care.

Pastor



Events & News!!!

"Holiday Cheers and Beers" Christmas Carol Fundraiser

Lutheran Campus Ministries of New Mexico
Sunday, December 5, 2021, 4:00 to 6:00pm

Please join us for "Holiday Cheers and Beers," a Christmas Carol fundraiser for Lutheran Campus Ministries of New Mexico, Inc. Our fundraising event will be held in the outdoor, heated patio of B2B Garden Brewery at 8338 Comanche Rd NE. Let's, sing, drink, and be merry!

Questions? Write to lcmunmcmnm@gmail.com

Family Christmas Trees at Messiah

We have two family Christmas trees this year. The Kennedy Middle School Tree is by the reading room and has white lights. Our gifts are for an eighth grader and mother (recently widowed). He is a size Lg or XL (men) for shirts; 32-33 (men) waist size for jeans; and a size 8 (men) for shoes. We have two weekends, sorry, contact has been difficult considering the circumstances. (Their last two months have been a real tragedy.) Edna would like them labeled (tagged) but not wrapped on Tuesday, December 14

The family neighbor of the Baca's has fallen on hard times. There is a tree on the east end of the Narthex, with red lights with tags on it for three children (2 girls, 1 boy). Grab some tags and bring the wrapped gifts with the tags taped to them to the tree in the Narthex by Sunday, December 19, 2021. (Contact pastor if you need to bring them in during the week)

Thank you for your graciousness.

December 2021 NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Council meetings will take place the 2nd Tuesday this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)

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

Advent & Christmas Schedule

12/12: Sunday @ 9:30 service
Choir will perform special music
12/24: Friday @ 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, HC
12/25: Saturday @ 10:30 am
Christmas Day Service
12/26: Sunday @ 9:30 am
Worship Service with Holy Communion

2021 Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 16, 2021
Following the worship service
(location and ZOOM possibility: TBA
next month)



Church supplies needed: glass cleaner, counter cleaner, power towels

Volunteers Needed!!!

- ZOOM and PowerPoint on Sundays
- Offering Counters
- Church Council Members

Sign-up on the volunteer board at MLC.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1.	2.	3.	4.
			9:30 am Bible Study			
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship *Choir will perform special music* Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study			
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study		7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, HC	10:30 am Christmas Day Service
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	
9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			

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