

Messiah Messenger

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

December 2022
Volume 60
Issue 12



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

We are in the Season of Advent, moving forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Season of Advent beckons us to be awake to the Lord's coming and aware of His daily presence, as we contemplate His arrival in Bethlehem as a little child. That birth was an awakening, a transformation for our world. We not only are able to wish for peace, and more so, able to live in it now and eternally, through the love and mercy of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

"Gray Lady II" and I with so much pleasure, look forward to traveling about our community at this time of year. It seems that people throughout New Mexico have so many ways of decorating their homes and businesses for Christmas. At night, if we have our grand daughter, we walk around the neighborhood taking in all the lights. And when it's a cold night, "Gray Lady II" gets to be her chariot through the paved pathways, filled with lights, seasonal greetings and air-filled Christmas characters. She cheers, points and names them, and "Gray Lady II" grins with pride.

"Gray Lady II" and I do most of our work driving during the day, so most places are not lit up or their decorations standing up to greet. Yet, there are many interesting things to note and clever thoughts, expressed about the roadways. There are so many signs by the roads and stickers on the vehicles, which seek to invite or impart wisdom. We travel mostly when going east and west, Menaul or Candelaria.

In the morning, going east toward the Sandia Mountains, the sun rises and shows itself brightly through “Gray Lady II’s” windshield. And each morning as that happens, I tell her that I need to clean her windows, inside and out. Quite a routine. She agrees and then just laughs at me knowing I will forget by the time I get home and the sun is not directly in my face. Going home to the west it is usually before sunset, and the volcanos protrude from the desert horizon.

The play on words and the subtle truths behind some of what befalls my vision while driving can be quite interesting and thought provoking. Even a wry grin and groan. Or outright disagreement. Here are some that touched “Gray Lady II” and me. The first one comes right out of our church parking lot on the back of a VW Beetle. I think the vehicle belongs to one of the RSCC members: “Exposure to the Son prevents burning.”

Another, was on a 4th Street business sign, an Italian restaurant “Luigi’s”: “In Pizza we Crust.” Also on 4th Street, on the Starbucks sign: “Everything I brew, I brew for you.” And one last one for this newsletter, comes from a business on Candelaria, “American Auto Clinic”: “Life and beer are similar, chill for best results.” “Gray Lady II” asked me what it had to do with auto repair. I was not sure, but it did at least two of the things it needed to do for the business. It got us to slow down to read the sign and take note of the name and purpose of their business.

This Advent season, it would be good for us to slow down, read the Word which work as signs showing the way to our Lord, and ponder about what Christ’s birth means to us and others. Every time we break open the Holy Scriptures or listen to it by an audio source, we are invited into the world of God’s grace. The Holy Spirit gets a chance to awake our longing to be in the care of an all loving and merciful divine presence.

The Holy Spirit uses us, too. We are His billboards to the world about salvation and the living grace of our born into this world and risen victor over sin and death. People see us and we tell them by our words and deeds how much being filled fully of the Lord means to us. And also, for them if they so wish to impart in His grace and love. The Christmas story can open hearts of those feeling downtrodden and bedraggled. The supreme power of the universe, humbled Himself to come and be like us, walking in our world and feeling our needs. He did so out of His love and invites all who hear the Bethlehem story of a savior born as a baby in a manger, to become part of His salvation story for His creation.

Have a blessed Advent, Merry Christmas and life filled with Christ’s gift of hope, mercy, love and peace.

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

December Scripture 2022



<p><u>December 4th</u> Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12</p>	<p><u>December 11th</u> Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalms 146:5-10 Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate) James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11</p>
<p><u>December 18th</u> Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25</p>	<p><u>December 25th</u> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalms 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20</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 2nd Saturday of the Month at 9:30 am</p> <p>Sew & Share 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month</p> <p>Craft Class Up and running Contact for meeting time</p> <p>Rising Sun Christian Community 11:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Pastor Doug Mathison office@messiahabq.org</p> <p>Director of Music Katherine Alexander kalex@unm.edu</p> <p>Building & Grounds Carlo Bachechi</p> <p>Church Office office@messiahabq.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"> • Steve McHenry • Dennis Milks • Stephanie • Cecilia Pepper • Irene Aldredge • Deanna Dahm • Carole Baker • Loring Emery • Marian Kulju • Helga Lindner • Jacen Hoyt • Dotty Dahl • Pat Baca & Family <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 2022 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Our next meeting will be **Saturday, December 10, 2022**. We will meet 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

Thanksgiving—We have been involved with providing food for Ten Families of Kennedy Middle School since 2017. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated to this great cause this year. Edna said the food was accepted by the families with big smiles and many thanks.

Christmas—We have the opportunity to make a family happy with Christmas from the KMS school. We have up a tree with white lights on it for your donations to this cause. May we bring joy to a very needy family. It is a father and a daughter (sixth grade). The girl is an average size eleven year old. It would be great if we could get her some clothes and toys, along with gift cards for food and other Christmas shopping.

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

President: Steve McHenry
Vice President: K. D. Pass
Secretary: Rebecca Hauge
Treasurer: Lee Danielson
Financial Secretary: Rosemary Butler
At Large:
 Ron Kulju
 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 meeting once again in our building (and with a digital format for those outside the building). They have been having fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. They are working on getting a second camera up and running for their streaming service of their worship.

They will be having their Christmas Potluck Dinner on Sunday, December 18, following their service in the Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP AT MESSIAH

We are worshipping in the church building and doing ZOOM for those not in the building. We pray that this keeps us in touch with the Word of the Lord and each other. Sadly, our ZOOM experience has had its hiccups. Please understand that we are trying but it does not always perform as well as it could. We have also been emailing or mailing a weekly exposition of the weekly worship and lessons. We are having fellowship time following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Most of our eats are prepackaged, but some people bring in treats. Please pick and choose what works best for you and your health. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra Osterloh, KD Pass, Rosemary Butler, Debra Hoyt, Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Gene and Irene Aldredge, and Tony, for their extra assistance in making worship happen during this unusual time. We are having Holy Communion during the service with special directives for practicing social distancing and health concerns. We started using unleavened bread for the Sunday services, beginning April 24, 2022.

Thank you to Carol Hartenberger and Lee Danielson for making the communion bread we are presently using. If others would like to make the bread, we have a recipe available for you.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH

- 1) Sew and Share—They will meet on 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. The next gatherings will be **December 6 and 20, 2022.**
- 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, and other activities throughout the year.
- 3) We have formed a "Vision Committee" to review and look into what is ahead for worship and other activities at Messiah. Presently, the committee consists of Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Cassandra and Brian Osterloh, Chuck Danielson, KD Pass, and Pastor Doug. They are interested in visiting with members of Messiah, as we look ahead being a worshipping center for our Lord.

- 4) **Mitten Tree:** The MLCW has a Christmas Tree in the Narthex (red lights) for donations of hats, scarves, mittens, socks, etc. The tree will be up through
- 5) **Advent Charitable Drive:** "Advent Calendar"—This calendar has a designated item to put into a box each day and at the end of the Advent Season, bring your full box to the church or to your local food bank of choice. (See Advent Calendar printed in our newsletter)
- 6) **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.
- 7) **Messiah Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 15, 2023, following the worship service in the Conference Room, and on ZOOM.

December 2022 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 be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.

- December 6th
- December 20th

MLCW Bible Study will meet on Saturday December 10th at 9:30 a.m.

Council meetings will take place December 13th this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)

Treasurer Report October 2022

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$10,572.00	\$90,390.28
Expense	\$5,245.07	\$71,221.46
Net	\$5,326.93	\$19,168.82
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$117,747.91	\$122,520.10
MM	\$18,647.40	\$18,647.56

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



What a wondrous time. A blessing to KMS families done by all your love. Thank you



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Practice) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew & Share	9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am MLCW Bible Study
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Practice) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study			
18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Practice) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew & Share	9:30 am Bible Study			4:30 pm Lighting of the Luminarias 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Practice) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			

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