

# Messiah Messenger

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

**December 2023**

**Volume 61**

**Issue 12**



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

In our reflections with ourself and with others, we quite often think of events. Some of the events are filled with joy and others are a bit somber. Yet they are still significant events, just the same. "Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup ministry partner) was an integral part of some of the most recent "past" events. She and I looked forward to them, either way, because they are apart of our being alive and caring.

"Gray Lady II" and I got to go to the Sunport Airport on the Wednesday morning before Thanksgiving. It was to be the beginning of a wonderful time. Our son was flying into Albuquerque to spend Thanksgiving with us. It was also wonderful because his niece, our Granddaughter and my wife we going to be able to meet him at the gate. Our Granddaughter loves airplanes and was excited that she was able to go along with us to pick our son up.

It was also a kind of melancholy event which we would have to keep close to our hearts. When we took our son to the airport to leave on Sunday, we had some sadness. First, we do not know when we will get to see him again, in the near future. Secondly, this would probably be the last time "Gray Lady II" would be

having our Granddaughter as a passenger to the airport. Thirdly, it reminded us that by the end of the week following Thanksgiving, our Granddaughter would rarely be staying at our house. Her family is moving out of the state of New Mexico, many hours away, instead of minutes. For years, she had been with us a lot and ridden in "Gray Lady II" to many various places. I could sense in "Gray Lady II" some sadness as she reflected on how things were going to be in December without the little girl on board.

These are not uncommon occurrences among most people living in this world. We make loving attachments and enjoy regular times and activities together. We are a social, and maybe even a bit clan-ish, especially with family and close friends, in and out of our community and worship life. These thoughts cause me to ponder that which only the Scriptures gets to touch upon through their chapters concerning our Lord and Savior.

Imagine with me the folks of His early life community who got to see Mary and Joseph with their precious little bundle they carried around with parental joy. The people must have enjoyed this young boy skipping around their tents and as He grew speaking so sagaciously at the Temple. The group of people touched by Jesus' life as He got into His ministry, must have been wondrous. He touched lives and their lives (even hands physically) His, especially at points of His healing and professing. I cannot even fully consider how His close disciples felt each time He entered a village, city or countryside filled with people clamoring to meet Him, and sadly some despising Him.

At His birth in Bethlehem His presence and grace began to change the lives of the world around Him. They longed to be near Him. Then, imagine, one day His prophecy was filled when He went into Jerusalem for His final events leading up through the Cross and Resurrection. Those who had been moved by His character and loving nature were now to be separated from His every day appearance. That sense of loss really shows itself with His post-Resurrection appearance with His initial conversation with the men on the road to Emmaus. Yet, in the He revealing of Himself to them, brought back to them a sense of belonging of the love of the Risen Lord.

We have to at times go through moments of separation with a gracious remembrance that we are not fully or truly apart. Our loved ones will always be with us as the Lord through our strong faith has promised to be with us. It is in the hope filled in the precious and failing remembering, we are always together.

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

## December Scripture 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>December 3<sup>rd</sup></u></b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 64:1-9</b>  <b>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</b>  <b>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</b>  <b>Mark 13:24-37</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>December 10<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 40:1-11</b>  <b>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</b>  <b>2 Peter 3:8-15a</b>  <b>Mark 1:1-8</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>December 17<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</b>  <b>Psalm 126</b>  <b>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</b>  <b>John 1:6-8, 19-28</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>December 24<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p><b>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</b>  <b>Luke 1:46b-55</b>  <b>Romans 16:25-27</b>  <b>Luke 1:26-38</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>December 31<sup>st</sup></u></b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 61:10--62:3</b>  <b>Psalm 148</b>  <b>Galatians 4:4-7</b>  <b>Luke 2:22-40</b></p>	

## December 2023 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 December 5<sup>th</sup>  
and 19<sup>th</sup>

**MLCW Bible Study** will meet December  
9<sup>th</sup>

**Council meeting** will take place **Tuesday,  
December 19<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...**

### **December 2023 ~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, **December 09, 2023**, 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**

Edna and pastor are working on doing the 10 families for Thanksgiving. **Thank you to all who provided and helped package and deliver the groceries on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, to Kennedy Middle School.**

**We will be having a family from Tomasita who will be receiving a special Christmas from us. More details in December. There will be a Christmas tree specifically designated in the Narthex.**

#### **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. **Our upcoming quarter is October, November and December. Please bring in supplies to donate to the keeping up our supplies.**

### **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. 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 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 **December 5 and 19**. 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. There will be another meeting in December.
- 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.
- 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) Christmas Schedule:
  - Sunday, December 24—Fourth Advent Worship Service, 9:30 am
  - Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve Candelight Service, 7:00 pm  
(Luminarias will need to be placed outside before service)
  - Monday, December 25—Christmas Day Worship Service, 10:30 am
- 9) **Church Council** nominees for 2024 are needed.

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1.	2.
3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Bishop Jim Gonia)  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew and Share	9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am MLCW Bible Study
10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.
9:30 am Worship & Potluck  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew and Share  6:30 pm Church Council	9:30 am Bible Study			
24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
9:30 am Advent Service  7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	10:30 am Christmas Day Service		9:30 am Bible Study			
31.						
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship  Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am						

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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