

**Second Sunday in Advent, December 5, 2021**  
**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
231 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Washburn, WI 54891, 715-373-5378  
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ZOOM ID #898-0296-5268 passcode – church

**We are glad you are worshipping with us!** If you are looking for a church home or if you would like a pastoral visit, let us know by giving your contact information to an usher or the Pastor.

**Our mission** *Living in God's grace, we reach out to invite & welcome all with God's Love.* **Our welcoming statement** *We welcome people of every age, color, culture & political persuasion every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and ability as we celebrate together our unity in Christ.*

**Hoping to be Welcoming & Covid-safe**, we take our advice from the Bayfield County Health Dept. They highly recommend masks regardless of vaccination status, social distancing, shorter worship services, no hand-shaking, attendance for contact tracing. Gather in ways that don't put at risk unvaccinated people, children or the medically vulnerable. Stay home if you don't feel well. Thank you!

**Announcements**

**Today-Ukulele Practice 3:00-4:00 pm @ Messiah** Join us even if you have not yet come! We have 2 unused ukuleles. We rehearse Christmas music and will play for Northern Lights & The Oaks on Dec. 19. Meet at Northern Lights at 2:00 pm. Proof of vaccination is required.

**Tonight-L.I.F.E Youth Ministry- Open to all 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders** *Living in Faith Ecumenically*, Kaari Enigl is the L.I.F.E. Youth Ministry Coordinator-[kaa.ashland@gmail.com](mailto:kaa.ashland@gmail.com). The group meets at Ashland's Presbyterian Church @ 4:00 pm. **LIFE thanks** Messiah for collecting 400 items for The BRICK, joining with other church donations to surpass the goal and raise \$1000 from Thrivent for The Brick!

**All are welcome to these upcoming events...**

**Quilters** meet on Wednesdays, 9:00 am in basement.

**Messiah's Choir** meets on Wednesdays, 6:30 pm in choir area.

**Generations in Faith Together** meets 6:00 pm by Zoom on Dec. 8.

In-person on Dec. 15, 5:30 pm for supper, then lesson and worship.

**This year poinsettias** can be brought to Messiah by noon on December 22 to help decorate the church.

**Prayers for Healing**

Karen Puig

Tanya Yeazle & Uncle Jerry

Terry Morris

Maryann Strohman

Iley Guenther

Laura Pederson

Duane Dehn

Aunt Betsy

Carol Salminen

**Requested by**

Lorraine Young

Meika

Cindi Orley

Kelly Beirl

Pastor

Bob Leis

Bev Dehn

Kate, Emma and Jane

Pastor

**Prayers for Comfort in grief**

Phyllis Thedens  
 Dorothy Maki  
 Joe Prohaska  
 Earl Colver  
 Ken Weiler  
 Dave Emch  
 Chris Nemec  
 Jack Sharky  
 Jack Peterson

**Requested by**

Donna Kramolis  
 Mike Harvey  
 Carol Salminen  
 Barb Colver  
 Sandy Olson  
 Jan Allen  
 Kelly Beirl  
 Audrey Swedberg  
 Diane Tetzner

**More Prayers**

Marlyce Olson, new life in Arizona	Sarah Olson
Dan Harvey, new life in Ashland	Pastor
Angel, health, healing, housing	Pastor

Holy Darkness, A Service of Word & Prayer for Advent (Sundays and Seasons, Year C, pages 28-31)

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

We confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of God.

Silence

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another we confess our sin. At times we fail in believing the good news is for us. At times we falter in our call to tend your creation. At times we find our identity in material wealth. At times we fear those different from ourselves and forget we are all your children.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Jesus, has looked with favor upon us! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. We are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens us anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

Light One Candle WOV #630 Verses 1-2

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**Darkness is Holy Genesis 1:1-19**

*From the beginning, darkness and light have been part of God's universe. When God creates the light, the darkness is not extinguished or cursed, but complemented. Light and darkness each have a purpose in the created order. Each is necessary for the unfolding of God's salvation history. Day and night together – as two parts of a whole – are declared "good."*

**Darkness Holds Promise 1 Samuel 3**

*God comes to us in dreams and visions. The long expanse of night, absent the distractions of worries of the day, creates space for us to hear and listen. Three times Samuel hears God's voice as he sleeps; three times he mistakes it for Eli's, unable to comprehend that God might be seeking him instead. Eli perceives that God is doing a new thing and encourages Samuel to lie down and be open to God calling to him in the night.*

**Hymn: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky ELW # 574**

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

**Darkness Holds God Matthew 1:18-24** *The entire story of Jesus' birth is enveloped in darkness. An angel visits Joseph in a nighttime dream. The shepherds receive word from angelic chorus by night that the Savior has been born; the magi are led to him by a bright evening star. And not long after his birth, Joseph and Mary flee under the protection of night to escape King Herod's slaughter of the innocents. We celebrate the birth of Christ most often in the late afternoon and evening of Dec. 24 when our candle light helps us appreciate the contrast between the darkness which allows the light to shine more brightly.*

**Sermon Hymn: What Child is This? ELW #296**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

**Prayers**

We remember before God  
All who are frightened...  
All who have received unexpected news...  
All who are with child...  
All who dream...  
All whose relationships are strained...  
All who must make difficult decisions...  
All who must leave their homeland...  
All who are in a new homeland...  
All for whom the world has no room...

Gathering our many prayers, we pray

**Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken & unspoken, trusting you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace:** Please stay seated, smile & wave!

Words of Institution/Lord's Prayer Stay seated using pre-packaged holy communion. Please place in receptacle when you leave. Thank you.

**Post Communion Prayer:** God, you come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your love, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Jesus. Amen.

**Blessing:** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus for whom we wait. Go in peace. Be not afraid. Christ is near. Thanks be to God!

### **Announcements**

Council Retreat follows today's worship. Please hold them in prayer as they seek God's will for our next 2 years. Thank you!

**Thank you to worship assistants,** pianist Owen Polifka, and ushers Sally Randell and Mary Westlund.

**Thank you for faithful attendance.** Worship attendance on October 24 was 42 in the building with 19 on Zoom. On October 31 we had 34 in attendance with several more on Zoom. On Nov. 7 we had 40 in-house and 11 on Zoom. On Nov. 14 we had 23 in-house, 13 on Zoom. On Nov. 21 we had 25 in-house, 20 on Zoom. On Nov. 28 we had 36 in-house and 20 on Zoom.

**Thank you for generous giving of time and talents.** Pasty sales reached 800! Last night's Take-Out Ham Dinner was amazing.

**Thank you to all who supported the Nov. 24 Bake Sales** at the IGA. This Thrivent Action Team event raised funds for a camp for people with disabilities, and for upcoming youth activities.

**Sharing Angel Tree** There are still a few tags on the Sharing Tree if you want to participate or make a cash donation for gifts. We are buying gifts for 12 kids of incarcerated parents. The unwrapped gifts are to be returned to the church by December 15. Thank you for sharing with others this Christmas. May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you!

**Adventure Women** invite women of any age to walk or drive around and view Christmas lights. Meet at the church on Saturday, Dec. 18 @ 4:00 pm. Call or text Pastor or Jana Lindh at 651-308-7472 for more info.

Genesis 1:1-19 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day... And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

1 Samuel 3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room... 4 Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" 5 and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. 6 The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 8 The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, Speak, Lord for your servant is listening. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, Speak, for your servant is listening. 11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle..."