



MESSIAH MESSENGER

December 2022



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

Why we encourage worshipping twice a week during Advent and Lent

Many congregations have stopped offering two services during the seasons of Advent and Lent due to low attendance. Additionally, many congregations discontinued these types of services during the COVID Pandemic, and have no plans to resume.

That being stated, we had members at Messiah who wanted us to return to Midweek services during these times of the year. But some may ask why we need to attend worship more than once in a week. Worship of the Lord should be seen as rest from our vocations in the world and God's way of strengthening our faith. This way we can better endure the challenges of life and serve the Lord with joy. Perhaps this story shared by Tim Hetzer of Lutheran Church Charities will illustrate the point.

A competition was held between two men to see who could chop down the most trees in a single day. One man was older and more experienced, while the other was younger and less experienced. And that's where the difference showed up. The younger man spent eight hours chopping down trees, and at the end of the day he had a total of twenty-five. Believing the older man lacked stamina and youth, he sat down, fully confident he would win. Meanwhile the older man, who had taken a ten-minute break each hour, ended his day by chopping down forty trees.

In shock the younger man asked, "How is this possible, old man? I didn't stop. You stopped every hour for ten minutes and yet you chopped down almost twice as many trees as I did." The older man replied, "Every hour I sat down for ten minutes and did two things. First, I took time to rest and recharge my batteries. Second, I took time to sharpen my axe. Yes, you were working hard but you were working with a dull axe."

There's an important lesson here. In order to succeed at what God has called you to do in life, you must always do these two things:

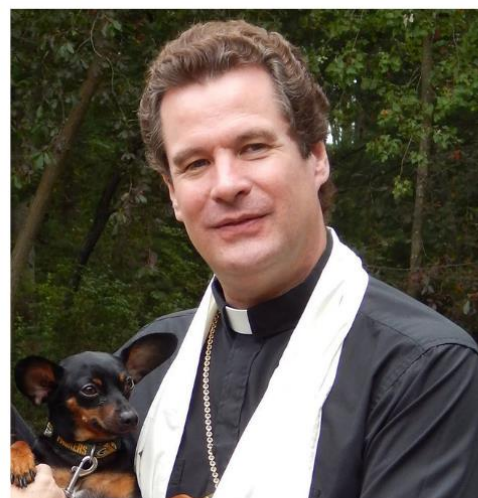
- (1) Make time for rest and renewal. You cannot always be giving out; you must also stop and take in. That's where prayer and Bible reading come in: they restore what life depletes.
- (2) Stay sharp. When your axe is dull it requires more energy and produces fewer results.

So take time to rest and sharpen.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! Psalm 95:6 ESV

In the Joy of Jesus,
Pastor Dan



So take time to rest and sharpen.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Psalm 95:6 ESV



Another Way to Give Offerings to Messiah: Last March, our congregation voted unanimously to explore additional ways to give offerings to Messiah through eTithing. The Parish Planning Council decided to open the Givelify app for our members and friends. It is now on-line and ready for use. It is an easy way to give if you don't carry cash or use paper checks. Simply download the app at the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. It is safe and secure. If you need help setting up the app, please contact Jim Shellenberger at (815) 275-2081 or Carl Creedy at (608) 201-2466. They are planning on having workshops to help people use this exciting new tool.

December Birthdays

BJohn Cleveland	12/1
Cerissa Cleveland	12/2
David Erickson	12/2
Kathy Baumann	12/4
Felicia Foerster	12/6
Rhett Foerster	12/7
Kyle Fourtounis	12/7
Noelle Swanson	12/7
Bob Altenberg	12/10
Jackie Thomplson	12/10
Karen Battist	12/12
Collin Beighley	12/12
Christine Erickson	12/14
Virginia Heinrich	12/16
Randy Cleveland	12/17
Devin Hessler	12/18
Craig Redding	12/18
Olivia Shellenberger	12/19
Elaine Guetschow	12/20
Cathy Melby	12/21
Dan Wojszynski	12/21
Billl Swanson	12/22
Zachary Collins	12/23
Georgia Laidig	12/23
Kathy Lynch	12/23
Jacob Teague	12/25
Beth Thompson	12/25
Vickie Berryman	12/27
Crystal Eddy	12/28
Mary Knueppel	12/28
Ryan Sennett	12/28
Sue Luethy	12/29
Chad Kroning	12/30
Gary Melby	12/30
Elaine Stageman	12/30
Tanya Wells	12/30
Sanci Foerster	12/31

Calendar of Events

- December 7, 2022 (Wednesday, 6 PM) - Midweek Advent Supper
- December 7, 2022 (Wednesday, 7PM) - Midweek Advent Service
- December 10, 2022 (Saturday, 9AM) - Men's Bible Study
- December 11, 2022 (Sunday, 11AM) - Children's Christmas Program
- December 12, 2022 (Monday, 9AM - 12PM) - Circuit 23-24 Pastor Winkel at Messiah
- December 14, 2022 (Wednesday, 6PM) - Midweek Advent Supper
- December 14, 2022 (Wednesday, 7PM) - Midweek Advent Service
- December 18, 2022 (Sunday, 10AM) - Congregational Meeting; no 11AM Service
- December 21,2022 (Wednesday, 6PM) - Midweek Advent Supper
- December 21, 2022 (Wednesday, 7PM) - Midweek Advent Service
- December 24, 2022 (Saturday, 5PM) - Christmas Eve Service
- December 25,2022 (Sunday, 10AM) - Christmas Day Service



55 Plus Home Repair Program

The County of Rock is offering home improvement grants for senior home owners age 55 or older. This grant is designed to help make home repairs and accessibility modifications to help meet the challenges of aging in place safely and affordability. If you or someone you know may qualify for this home repair assistance program, contact Rock County at (608) 757-5587.

December Anniversaries

Ken & Nettie Strand 12/1/2007



A note from Jim and Susie Waters:

We would like to invite all boards and church members to be a part of our church newsletter. If you know of upcoming events, have inspirational quotes, great recipes for the upcoming month, or have any other church or community news that you think would fit well with our congregation please let us know by email (Messiahlutherannewsletter@gmail.com), and we will do our very best to get your news entered in as soon as possible. We plan on printing newsletters monthly.

Thank you and God's blessings to you all.

Recipe of the Month

Butterscotch Gingerbread Cookies



Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 packages (3-1/2 ounces each) cook-and-serve butterscotch pudding mix
- 3 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
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Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in the eggs. Combine the flour, pudding mixes, ginger, baking powder and cinnamon; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until easy to handle.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with lightly floured cookie cutters. Place 1 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake at 350° for 6-8 minutes or until firm. Remove to wire racks to cool. Decorate as desired.

Let's get social...



Here are some recent highlights from our Facebook page. Please follow our page to keep current on the latest news, announcements, and events here at Messiah.

CHILI COOKOFF + EUCHRE TOURNAMENT!



Thank you to the almost 30 Messiah Members and Friends who attended the Chili Cookoff hosted by our Fellowship Committee. Six different types of chilies were tasted and voted on by those attending. Chrissy Behl and Vickie Dansbury won the Best Chili. Brian Morse was voted Best Smelling Chili. Rick Magee took the honor of the Most Unique Chili. David Goff won Spiciest Chili. Vickie Dansbury won Best Decorated Table. Thank you to all our chili cooks and tasters. Following dinner, the annual Euchre tournament commenced. Special thanks to Cindy and Terry Zimmerman, Sandy McDearmon, and the Behls.

Messiah's Food Pantry

Praise the Lord for Messiah's Food Pantry. On Thursday, November 20 we served a record 75 families equating to over 210 people in need in our Greater Beloit area. In addition to our normal perishable and non-perishable food items, we gave our clients any combination of the following: hams, roasting chickens, rolls, turkey gravy, stuffing, yams, cranberries, and pumpkin pies. This was above and beyond what we normally give in order to help our clients to celebrate Thanksgiving. We will be closed this Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving, but we look forward to serving local residents in need next month: Thursdays, December 8 and 22 from 3:30-5:30pm.



Messiah's Food Pantry could use your help!
They are always in need of paper goods and personal care items such as:
Paper towels, toilet paper, and Kleenex
Dish soap, laundry soap, and bath soap
Shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste & brushes
Monetary gifts are also welcome!



Messiah Lutheran Church
Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is located at 1531 Townline Ave, and is open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm for all residents of the Greater Beloit Area!