



MESSIAH MESSENGER

January 2023



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

How to Reflect on the Past - How to View the Future

Happy New Year.

As people posted on Facebook reflections for the New Year, everyone has a hope for a better 2023, but I found most people's assessments of the previous year to be a bit negative against much of anything going well.

King David's reflection of life in Psalm 31 serves as a descriptive example of what believers in Christ can do today as they look back on the past to help prepare for a better future.

Verses 14-15 NIV: **"But I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands."**

This is part of a prayer where David sees his enemies on every side encroaching on his life. This includes:

- Those who don't believe in the Lord
- Those who want to overthrow him ruling over God's kingdom of Israel
- His own fears and anxieties which are affecting his body, mind, and spirit

Review Psalm 31 to read how after David points out the bad, he has a constructive way to look at his future.

Verse 19: **"How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you."**

Verse 21: **"Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love."**

Verse 24: **"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."**

In prayer, David recognizes the blessings the Lord has given to him in the past, praying for those same blessings for the future.

What is true for David is true for you as a baptized child of God.

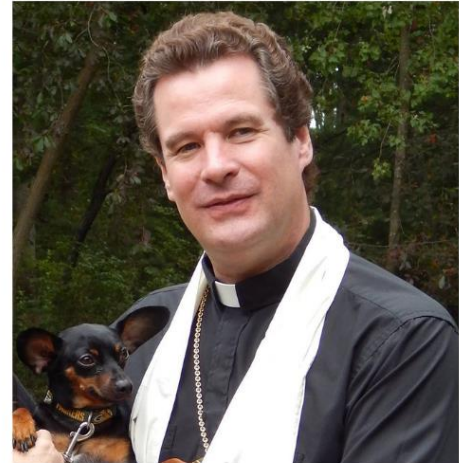
So, take the time in prayer to give thanks for the good of the past year, how the Lord helped you through the bad, and ask how to better face the challenges in the New Year.

Remember how Jesus handled death from the Cross and grave, so we would not be condemned for eternity. As a result of His sacrifice, embrace the Lord's forgiveness to "let go" of your sins and others, and live in His peace in the chaos of this year.

When you do this, you will notice more of His light in your life, and others will see it, too. Then next New Year you will have a more positive of this year.

See you in worship, fellowship, and service,

Pastor Dan



"But I trust in you, Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands."

Psalm 31:14-15 NIV



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.

January Birthdays



Terri Coleman	1/1
Kevin Kreyer	1/1
Stephanie Rogers	1/1
Marc Lehner	1/3
Patty Wetzel	1/3
Sierra Coleman	1/4
Mary Lou Plamer	1/5
Sandi McDearmon	1/7
Betty Foerster	1/8
Alton Quade	1/9
Chelsea Ryan	1/9
Holly Anderson	1/10
Sherry Pahlas	1/10
Elvia Reid	1/10
Breela Altenberg	1/11
Ashley Beaumont	1/11
Karl Wetzel	1/11
Rob Hessler	1/13
Susan Waters	1/13
Daniel Eddy	1/15
Sara Hansel	1/15
Kristy Cleveland	1/16
Nic Simpson	1/16
Harry Anderson	1/17
Don Wachsmuth	1/18
Brenda Kempf	1/19
Edwin Teague	1/19
Zachary Anderson	1/21
Victor Soto	1/21
Chrissy Behl	1/22
Cris Hornagold	1/22
David Baumann	1/24
Dorothy Helms	1/25
Sara Wachsmuth	1/25
Jim Waters	1/25
Sarah Sears	1/26
Teresa Behl	1/28
Mya Bosco	1/31
Kimmy Redding	1/31
Sue Rogers	1/31

Calendar of Events

- January 7, 2023 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Senior Choir Practice returns
- January 8, 2023 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship (Epiphany) with Holy Communion
- January 8, 2023 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Fellowship, Sunday School, and Fellowship returns
- January 8, 2023 (Sunday, 12:15 PM) - Lay Elder-Deacon Meeting in upstairs Conference Room
- January 9, 2023 (Monday, 9 AM - 12 PM) - Pastor Dan at Circuit 23-24 Pastors Meeting at Christ Lutheran in Clinton
- January 9, 2023 (Monday, 6:15 PM) - Confirmation with St Johns in Messiah's Fellowship Hall
- January 10, 2023 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Returns in the Sanctuary and on-line Note Day of the week change
- January 10, 2023 (Tuesday, 5:30 PM) - New Member Class in Upstairs Conference Room
- January 10, 2023 (Tuesday, 7 PM) - Dartball Returns to Messiah in Fellowship Hall
- January 10, 2023 (Tuesday, 7 PM) - Parish Planning Council in Downstairs Conference Room
- January 11, 2023 (Wednesday, 5:45 PM) - Confirmation Make-up Class in upstairs Conference Room
- January 11, 2023 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion
- January 12, 2023 (Thursday, 11 AM) - Pastor Dan on KFYO.org Radio Studying Exodus 35-36
- January 12, 2023 (Thursday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM) - Food Pantry open
- January 14, 2023 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Choir Practice
- January 14, 2023 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Men's Group in Downstairs Conference Room
- January 15, 2023 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship (Epiphany) with Holy Communion
- January 15, 2023 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Fellowship, Sunday School, and Fellowship returns
- January 17, 2023 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study in the Sanctuary and on-line - Note: day of the week change
- January 18, 2023 (Wednesday, 9 AM) - LWML Gathering in Fellowship Hall
- January 26, 2023 (Thursday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM) - Food Pantry open
- January 29, 2023 (Sunday, 9 AM) - New Member Sunday
- January 29, 2023 (Sunday, 10AM) - Celebrating January Birthdays during Fellowship

January Anniversaries



There are no January Anniversaries



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.

Chicken & Dumpling Casserole

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen green peas
- 4 cups cubed cooked chicken
- **DUMPLINGS:**
- 2 cups biscuit/baking mix
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 2/3 cup 2% milk



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large saucepan, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in flour, sugar, salt, basil and pepper until blended. Gradually add broth; bring to a boil. Cook and stir 1 minute or until thickened; reduce heat. Add peas and cook 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in chicken. Pour into a greased 13x9-in. baking dish.
2. For dumplings, in a small bowl, combine baking mix and basil. Stir in milk with a fork until moistened. Drop by tablespoonfuls into mounds over chicken mixture.
3. Bake, uncovered, 30 minutes. Cover and bake 10 minutes longer or until a toothpick inserted in a dumpling comes out clean.



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.

Need a Prayer?

Call Messiah Lutheran's Prayer Line at 608-365-4724



Messiah's Food Pantry



Praise the Lord for Messiah's Food Pantry. Here is a picture of most of the Pantry Crew available to serve our members and community in need with non-perishable and perishable goods. Open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 3:30-5:30pm. An average of 50 households are served each time it is opened. This feeds an estimated 150 people. Messiah's Food Pantry is a self-supporting ministry, not funded through the congregation's general fund but through kind donations from members and grants from various non-profit groups.

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!

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.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Midweek Advent Suppers and Services at Messiah. We are grateful for all the hosts and great homemade food. It made for fantastic food and fellowship.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Messiah's Christmas Children's Program 2022
"The Meaning of the Candy Cane!"



On Sunday, December 11 at the 11am service 13 Sunday School and Confirmation Student participated in the Christmas Program. They shared the Christmas story from Luke 2 and tied to the Legend of the Candy Cane. They sang Go Tell it on the Mountain and handed out Candy Canes to the parishioners. Thanks to Sam Anderson for leading, and our teacher and helpers for all their hard work.



OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!



The Sunday school students had a very busy month. They made snow globes for the the shut-ins, and Christmas ornaments for the food pantry families. Sam Anderson led the students as they practiced for the Children's program that was presented during the service on December 11th. They ended the month with a birthday party for Jesus.



Giving Tree

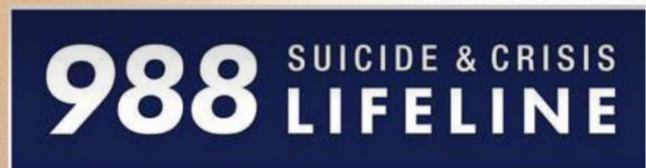


This year 40 tags were taken off the Giving Tree. The tags were specific gifts children requested for Christmas. These kids have been living in a domestically violent atmosphere. Thank you to Messiah's Evangelism Committee and the Members who contributed gifts to this act showing God's mercy to others.



Over 100 Messiah Members and Friends attended Christmas Eve Services at Messiah Lutheran Church. The theme of Light was accentuated by the lighting of individual candles during Silent Night, and putting family candles on the Altar and Consecration Table. Thank you to all who helped make this service possible....Lay Elder-Deacons, Senior Choir, Soloists - Jim Waters and Berta Eddy, Flutist June Cook, and our Altar Guild crew.

At the worship service on Wednesday, January 4, Mark Boos was installed as a Lay Elder-Deacon at Messiah. Board Chair Karl Wetzel nominated him at the Congregational Meeting on December 18, and the congregation approved the appointment. Mark becomes the 7th Lay Elder-Deacon to join the board.



As of July 16, 2022, anyone in the United States can call or text 988 or use an online chat tool to access the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The name of the service will be changing to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

The new 988 service will accept calls, texts, and online chats from anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis. People can also contact 988 if they are concerned about a loved one in crisis. Wisconsinites who use 988 will connect with Wisconsin Lifeline.



Messiah's Sunday School made Nativity Snow globes, cards, and other items as Christmas gifts for Messiah's Homebound members. Here is member Kathy Stolarzyk enjoying her gifts. Additionally, member Beth Thompson made Christmas Cards for our shut-ins. Thank you to all who do things to make our homebound members feel a part of our congregation.



On Thursday, January 5 Knapton Musik in Janesville delivered our new Yamaha Clavinova Keyboard to the balcony. Eldon Kolander, Joel Steinke, and Teresa Behl also helped with the installation. Here is organist Sue Kolander trying it out for the first time.

The congregation was presented a proposal for a new keyboard at a specially called Congregational Meeting in December. Then voted to approve the new keyboard at the regular quarterly Congregational Meeting on December 18. The old keyboard has been in use for over 20 years old and had needed critical repairs over the past three years. Because of its age, it is harder and harder to find parts. The old Clavinova keyboard was moved downstairs to the Overflow Seating - Choir area. It will be used for our 11am and 7pm services and will be in use until it doesn't work anymore.

In any event, the sound from the new keyboard eclipses the old. We thank the Lord for all those who donated to get the new keyboard. We pray it will make a joyful noise to the Lord for many years to come.