



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

January 2024



## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

### Trust the Lord More in 2024

Think of faith in Christ like a muscle. You were born with the muscles in your body. You did not choose them. They were given to you.

When you were baptized you were reborn into Christ. Through the power of God’s Word in the water, you were given saving faith. You were given the ability to trust in Jesus.

Muscles need to be fed to grow and they need to be exercised in order to be strengthened. Your faith muscle is no different.

This means trusting God is an act of exercising the faith muscle given to you the day you were reborn. Certainly, it could be argued with adults that they receive this faith muscle simply through hearing God’s Word and not rejecting it. Holy Baptism becomes that date where they know for sure they have this saving faith muscle.

You can try to trust in yourself. A common phrase we hear in our culture is “You have to believe in yourself.” But when that is done outside of trusting in Jesus, sin will occur. It will show itself in doubt, anxiety, selfishness, lack of wisdom, and this will involve violating any number of the 10 Commandments.

This concept of trust, the actions of your faith, is embedded into God’s Word: Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV:

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.***

Forget New Years’ resolutions. Have these verses be the vision for your life summed up in this phrase: **Trust the Lord more in 2024.**

This involves constant engagement in God’s Word where your faith is fed. This is why we offer a variety of group Bible Studies including a new Women’s Bible Study starting on Thursday, January 18. This is why we have a Men’s Group Bible Study the second Saturday morning of the month. This is why our adult Bible Studies are kept as podcasts for those who can’t attend live on Tuesdays. It is also why we are constantly offering new member classes and have resources for personal devotion time. All this is good food including the weekly family meal offered during Divine Worship. Here is where our faith is nourished by hearing His Word as it is read, sung, proclaimed, confessed, and literally fed in the Lord’s Supper.

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*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

## Trust the Lord More in 2024 from Pg. 1

Feeding your faith well is needed so that you can exercise it in the daily living as one of God's children.

As a congregation this faith will be exercised in discerning whether merging with Trinity and St John is a wise choice for our congregation. It will be exercised in serving our community through the Food Pantry and Fish Fry Dinners. It will be exercised as we take the time to get to know new members coming in as we care for those who have been amongst us for years. It will be exercised by defeating every temptation to gossip, be negative, and want to be less active in worship, fellowship, and service.

We need a strong faith muscle to trust the Lord more when Satan assaults us in many subtle and blatant ways as we engage with our family, friends, community, and culture.

It will need to be strong when people ask us to explain (or maybe defend) the reason for the hope we have in Christ. The strength of your faith is shown in how well you trust the Lord. This can be an incredibly powerful witness to others. Fear shows a faith muscle that is weak. Courage demonstrates a faith muscle that is strong.

Jesus feeds our faith with His love which drives away fear and fills us with His grace to forgive us, and set us on the right path with Him so we can trust Him more.

Jesus demonstrated His faith muscle is invincible when He gave up His life suffering and dying to get rid of all the bad to give us only His goodness shown in His physical resurrection from the dead. The Creator became the created to be the first-born of the New Creation, so we can absolutely trust in His hope of Heaven.

Now I can think of no better reason to **"Trust the Lord more in 2024."**

See you in worship, fellowship, and service.

Pastor Dan

Friday Night Fish Fry  
5:00-7:00 pm  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Feb. 16 - Mar. 22



Free will offering.  
1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI  
608-365-3794

Messiah's Evangelism team is looking for volunteers to fill our six weeks of service to church and community. Please fill out the survey so we can know how you can help. Many hands make lighter work.

*From Vickie Dansbury:*

*To the Friends at Messiah Lutheran, please know how grateful I am and how thankful I am that our Heavenly Father directed me here.*

*With this New Year, my goal is to be more: more loving, more patient, more compassionate with all that I encounter. More in 2024, is my mantra.*

*Again, Friends, thank you so much.*

*Shalom!*

## PANTRY NEWS

We continue to be blessed as we were able to serve 100- 8lb hams and 12 whole chickens to our clients for the pantry on the 14th of December. For the pantry on Dec. 28th, we were well-supplied with food to hand out. We were given a sizable donation from the members of St. John's Lutheran Church and sent a thank you for their thoughtfulness and support. We continue to apply for grants that greatly help us in keeping up with our expenses. We look forward to future growth as we continue in our efforts to feed those in need within our Beloit community. A big thank you to our membership for your support. We ask for your continued prayers as we continue our efforts to serve our Lord by serving others.

The Messiah Pantry



# Calendar of Events

- January 14, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- January 14, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship
- January 14, 2024 (Sunday, 12:15 PM) - Lay Elder-Deacon meeting
- January 16, 2024 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study Resumes – Sanctuary, on-line, and phone
- January 16, 2024 (Tuesday, 5:30 PM) - New Member class
- January 17, 2024 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- January 18, 2024 (Thursday, 5:30 PM) - Women's Bible Study - Downstairs Conference Room - Interested in studying the Holy Bible with other women? Do you want to use your faith in the "real world"? The Epistle of James, Jesus' brother, is the writer of the first book that we will study. Study materials and refreshments are provided. As we fellowship together, we will build a community of strong women.
- January 21, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- January 21, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM) - Bradley Burrows Adult Baptism
- January 21, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship - LWML Hosts Fellowship Time
- January 23, 2024 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study – Sanctuary, on-line, and phone
- January 23, 2024 (Tuesday, 5:30 PM) - New Member class
- January 24, 2024 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- January 25, 2024 (Thursday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM) - Food Pantry Open
- January 28, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- January 28, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM) - New Members Welcomed In
- January 28, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship
- January 30, 2024 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study – Sanctuary, on-line, and phone
- January 30, 2024 (Tuesday, 5:30 PM) - New Member class
- January 31, 2024 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion



LCMS Foundation  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER



**The goal of estate planning is to bring order and simplicity to those you leave behind.**

Louis and Brett were having coffee, the day after Christmas. Both shared with each other how much their families have changed, over the years. Children are talking about retirement. Grandchildren are out of college and advancing in their careers. Brett said to Louis, “When Sally and I put our estate plan together 25 years ago, we felt a great responsibility to provide for our family, as they seemed to have so many needs. But now our priorities are different, and our children are doing well. In fact, even our youngest grandchild is better off financially than I was at their age. But I do have a grandchild with special needs, and we are wondering what we should do for her. We also think a lot about our Church and its future as times are changing. We are also stirred by the LCMS missionary who talked about the impact of the Gospel on families over in Kenya. We know we need to update our plan, but it seems so complex and chaotic. We just do not know where to start.”

Brett’s predicament is common. Most people find that their life situations and the tug of the Gospel urge them to update their gift plans. We certainly live in an ever-changing world. It is therefore a good practice to review the gift plan within one’s estate plan every so often, whenever you feel life has changed. That look may certainly bring some effort. But that is just good stewardship of God’s things. We want to do well with God’s gifts, to make sure our families see Jesus through our care for them, and the world sees Jesus through our support of ministry.

In a bigger project, having some help always makes it easier. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you create a roadmap for working through this process. In the end, you will have peace of mind knowing you are doing the Lord’s will. To get started on your journey, contact Craig Toerpe, Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation. He will help get your plan started and to facilitate these important conversations while assisting you to make end of life gifts for the family you love and the ministries you care about at 262-707-3005 or [craig.toerpe@lfnd.org](mailto:craig.toerpe@lfnd.org)

## January Birthdays



Terri Coleman	1/1
Kevin Devine	1/1
Kevin Kreyer	1/1
Stephanie Rogers	1/1
Marc Lehner	1/3
Sierra Coleman	1/4
Mary Lou Palmer	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 Wetzell	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
Ed Teague	1/19
Zachary Anderson	1/21
Victor Soto	1/21
Chrissy Behl	1/22
Cris Hornagold	1/22
David Baumann	1/24
Jason Washburn	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

## January Anniversaries



No Anniversaries



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](mailto:Messiahlutherannewsletter@gmail.com)), and we will do our very best to get your news entered in as soon as possible.

Thank you and God's blessings to you all.

## Church Supper Hot Dish



### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 cups sliced peeled potatoes
- 2 cups finely chopped celery
- 3/4 cup finely chopped carrots
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup water
- 2 cans (10-3/4 ounces each) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 can (5 ounces) chow mein noodles, divided
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350°. In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain and set aside.
- In same skillet, saute potatoes, celery, carrots, green pepper and onion in butter 5 minutes. Add water; cover and simmer 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in soup and cooked ground beef until blended.
- Sprinkle half the chow mein noodles into a greased shallow 2-qt. baking dish. Spoon meat mixture over noodles. Cover and bake 20 minutes. Top with cheese and remaining noodles. Bake, uncovered, 10 minutes longer or until heated through.

# OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!



Messiah's Sunday School performed the 12 Days of Christmas as part of their Children's program at the 11am service on Sunday, December 17. The Children recorded the Christmas carol and then performed it for the service. Beforehand, Audrey Veale and Holly Anderson explained the significance of each day of Christmas for our faith in Christ. The video can be viewed at our website at [mlcbeloit.com](http://mlcbeloit.com) or on our Facebook Page at "Messiah Lutheran Church - Beloit, WI."



- What Each "Day" in "The 12 Days of Christmas" Means**
- The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ who was like a mother partridge, sacrificing herself to protect her young.
  - The two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments.
  - The three French hens stand for faith, hope, and love.
  - The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
  - The five golden rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament.
  - The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
  - The seven swans a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  - The eight maids a-milking represent the eight beatitudes, as Jesus expressed in the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5.
  - The nine ladies dancing are nine expressions of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
  - The ten lords a-leaping stand for the Ten Commandments.
  - The eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.
  - The twelve drummers drumming are for the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

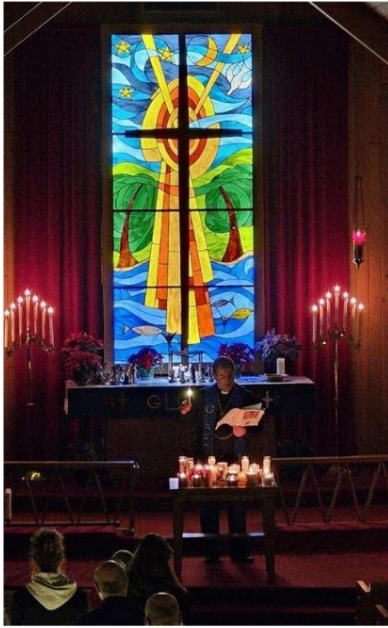


# YOUTH NEWS

On December 2nd, the youth of our church once again took on the faithful task of putting up, and decorating the Christmas tree that sits beautifully in our sanctuary along with wreaths that were hung on the beams of the church. They did a fantastic job of beautifying our sanctuary for the Christmas season! After all of their hard work, they all enjoyed a great pot luck consisting of Sloppy Joe's, potato salad, beans, Christmas cookies and hot cocoa. Congrats to our youth for another job well done!



Messiah Members and Friends enjoyed food and fellowship for Advent during the midweek services held on Wednesday nights. Worshippers received a "Fruit Tree" and each week they added a new piece of Holy Spirit "Fruit" to their "Tree"...including ones for Love, Joy, Peace, and Patience. You will have an opportunity to add to your Tree starting again on Wednesday, February 21 for another 5 weeks till March 20. And you can continue to enjoy food and fellowship with Supper starting at 5:45pm.



Almost 150 people worshipped Christmas Eve night at Messiah. The service featured family candles brought to the Consecration Table by a family member. Messiah's Senior Choir, Berta Eddy, Jim Waters, and Susan Kolander provided the music. And the sermon message focused on the "Songs" of Joseph showing how faith in Christ can get us through the good and bad of life. The end of the service featured "Candle" lite singing to Silent Night. Thanks to all who came out to worship.



Messiah Carolers sang Christmas hymns to our homebound members. On Saturday, December 16, our 10 singers visited our 8 homebound members. Those participating were Debbie Drost, Sherry Pahlas, Sam, Holly, and Chloe Anderson, Carol Wilkins, Sandy McDearmon, Vicky Kreyer, Cindy Zimmerman, and Pastor Dan. Thanks to all who made a joyful noise to the Lord.





# Holy Baptism



This past Wednesday Remington Rae Stockdale was officially brought into the Kingdom of God through the Rite of Holy Baptism. This happened at our 7pm service. This was the 2nd baptism done this week at Messiah. Through the water and the Word of God she was given saving faith in Jesus. Her parents are on the left and sponsors on the right. Remington has been a part of our Sunday School program, and we praise the Lord for bestowing forgiveness of sins, power over death and eternal life in and through Baptism. 1 Peter 3:21 and Matthew 28:16-20. There will be another baptism before the end of the month.

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This past Sunday Olivia Elaine Boos was officially brought into the Kingdom of God through the Rite of Holy Baptism. This happened at our 11am service. Through the water and the Word of God she was given saving faith in Jesus. Her parents are on the left and sponsors on the right. Olivia has been a part of our Sunday School program, and we praise the Lord for bestowing forgiveness of sins, power over death and eternal life in and through Baptism. 1 Peter 3:21 and Mathew 28:16-20. What a great way to start 2024!

