



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

February 2024



## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

### Seeing the Good in Bad News I Recently Received

Randy is my first roommate from my college days. We have known each other for over 40 years. We were even roommates after college until he got married in 1991. I was in his wedding. He was at mine. I am the godfather of his and his wife Gina's youngest daughter. They have three fantastic children. We've kept in touch over the years: in-person, texting, and phone calls. I consider him one of my best friends.

About 8 years ago he was diagnosed with cancer in the thyroid but, with surgery and treatment, it went into remission. Randy is in excellent health. I am envious of how good of shape he is in.

Well, last Tuesday, he called me with bad news. It appears he has cancer in one of his lungs. He thought something was up when one of the cancer markers was increasing after staying steady for years. A change of insurance at his workplace allowed him to get a P.E.T. scan to confirm where the cancer was. Randy will be 60 in April.

When Randy told me this news, I praised the Lord for his level of maturity about his diagnosis. His strong faith in Jesus shines through. While he is not happy about facing cancer again he has a joyful spirit about it. No doubt he wants the cancer to be gone, or at least go into remission. But he told his wife that if the worst happens then he can prepare for his end of life. He sees that as a blessing considering that so many people don't have that opportunity.

Randy is, and will continue to be, a witness to his family and friends about how fleeting this life is, and how the Church is in the "death preparing business." It makes Jesus' suffering and death very real for our lives, and His resurrection more powerful as the only hope to which we cling.

I think the reason Randy has such a mature attitude about his predicament is that he often reflects on the good and bad of life through the lens of his faith in Jesus. He remembers the good and bad of the past; celebrates blessings, and learns from his mistakes by embracing Jesus' ongoing forgiveness. This allows a perspective on life where nothing can take him away from the love of Jesus.

We prayed that he would see the day his children marry and have children of their own. That he would be able to retire someday and spend many years with his wife as they enjoy the fruit of their labor. And he is not going to stop serving the Lord's Church. He just completed a weekend fundraiser which involved working with former Chicago Bear player Mike Singletary.

Continued on pg. 2



The Apostle Paul: ***"For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord,"***

Romans 8:38-39 ESV

Now there is another way you can support Messiah Lutheran Church and our mission to spread the Gospel.

**Messiah Lutheran Church Online and Mobile Giving App | Made possible by Givelify**

## Seeing the Good in Bad News I Recently Received

The reason why I am writing about Randy is I would like you to pray for him and his family. And then take the time this Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday February 14, to deeply reflect on your life...the good and the bad. Thank the Lord for his blessings. Learn from your mistakes by embracing Jesus' ongoing forgiveness. See where the Lord is guiding you and preparing you for whatever is ahead in life. Then when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter I want you to have even more joy so your faith, like Randy's, can better endure the hardships of this life.

See you in worship, fellowship, and service.

In the Joy of Jesus,

Pastor Dan

## Ash Wednesday Services

**February 14**  
**6:30am: Sunrise**  
Coffee and Donuts afterwards

**February 14**  
**7pm: Night**

Freewill  
Offering  
Dinner at  
5:45pm

Imposition of Ashes  
offered at both  
services

**Ashes on Your Head Shows Jesus in Your Heart**

### "More of Christ's Fruit in Your Diet"

is this year's Midweek Lenten Suppers and Services...Wednesdays February 21 and 28, and March 6, 13, and 20. We dine together at 5:45pm with meals hosted by congregation members and groups. Then we worship together at 7pm. Each week one fruit of the Holy Spirit is explored from Galatians 5:22-23. Worshippers will receive an item on behalf of the congregation to help you remember the gift God gives through His Word.



**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.



**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!



# Calendar of Events

- February 3, 2024 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Senior Choir Practice – Sanctuary
- February 4, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- February 4, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship - Sunday School Hosting Fellowship Time
- February 4, 2024 (Sunday, 12:15 PM) - Lay Elder-Deacons Meeting in Upstairs Conference Room
- February 10, 2024 (Saturday, 9 AM) - Men's Group in downstairs Conference Room
- February 11, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- February 11, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship - LWML Hosts Fellowship Time
- February 13, 2024 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study – Sanctuary, on-line, and phone
- February 13, 2024 (Tuesday, 7 PM) - Parish Planning Council in Downstairs Conference Room
- February 15, 2024 (Thursday, 5:30 PM) - Women's Bible Study in downstairs Conference Room
- February 18, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- February 18, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship - Free Butter Braid Tasting for Fellowship Time
- February 20, 2024 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study – Sanctuary, on-line, and phone
- February 21, 2024 (Wednesday, 5:45 PM) - Lenten Suppers Sign up to Host (Sheets are in the Narthex)
- February 21, 2024 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Midweek Lenten Services: Fruit of the Holy Spirit continues
- February 23, 2024 (Friday, 5 PM - 7 PM) - Friday Night Fish Fry in Fellowship Hall - Fish Fry Dinners Fill out survey to show where and when to help (Surveys in Narthex)
- February 25, 2024 (Sunday, 9 AM and again at 11 AM) - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- February 25, 2024 (Sunday, 10 AM) - Sunday School and Fellowship
- February 27, 2024 (Tuesday, 1 PM) - Adult Bible Study – Sanctuary, on-line, and phone
- February 28, 2024 (Wednesday, 5:45 PM) - Lenten Suppers Sign up to Host (Sheets are in the Narthex)
- February 28, 2024 (Wednesday, 7 PM) - Midweek Lenten Services: Fruit of the Holy Spirit continues



**VBS, Sunday, July 21 through Wednesday,  
July -24 5-5:30pm Dinner;  
5:30-7:30pm**

**Need a  
Prayer?**

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



**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.**

## February Birthdays



Douglas Eddy	2/3
Kelly Nelson	2/8
Frank Stolarzyk	2/9
Jeremy Wilson	2/9
Joyce Elwood	2/11
Cheryl Sennett	2/11
Suzanne Nimz	2/12
Kaylee Annen	2/13
Carter Stocker	2/13
Cody Kittoe	2/15
Kathy Brainard	2/16
Misty Kropp	2/16
Nichole Swanson	2/17
Courtney Fieser	2/19
Nash Swanson	2/20
Bev GeRue	2/21
Michael Kropp	2/22
Carol Holmgren	2/23
Eldon Kolander	2/24
Kathy Stolarzyk	2/25

## February Anniversaries

Zachary & Samantha Anderson	2/2/2013
Leroy & Kathy Brainard	2/6/1993
Gary & Justine McGuire	2/6/1997

## Chocolate-Covered Strawberry Cobbler



### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, cubed
- 1-1/2 cups self-rising flour
- 2-1/4 cups sugar, divided
- 3/4 cup 2% milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- 4 cups fresh strawberries, quartered
- 2 cups boiling water
- Whipped cream and additional strawberries

### Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°. Place butter in a 13x9-in. baking pan; heat pan in oven 3-5 minutes or until butter is melted. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine flour, 1-1/4 cups sugar, milk and vanilla until well blended. In a small bowl, mix cocoa and remaining sugar.
- 2. Remove baking pan from oven; add batter. Sprinkle with strawberries and cocoa mixture; pour boiling water evenly over top (do not stir). Bake 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into cake portion comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes. Serve warm, with whipped cream and additional strawberries.

## Wednesday Midweek Lenten Fellowship Suppers are Returning

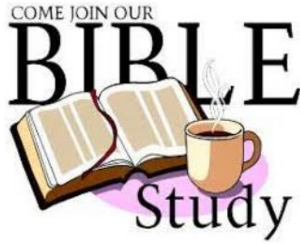
Wednesdays, February 14, 21 and 28, March 6, 13, and 20 from 5:45-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hosts are needed for the six weeks. It is a great opportunity for Sunday and Wednesday worshippers to dine together, get to know each other better, and catch up on life.

Hosts would need to provide a meal for 30 people. Menu items are entirely up to the hosts. See Cindy Zimmerman for details.

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Free-will offerings can be used to cover hosts' meal expenses.





# Faith & Fellowship



## Adult Bible Study Moving On Down

Adult Bible Studies at Messiah are both in-person and on-line. We started meeting in-person again in the Fall of 2021 after strictly being on-line throughout the Pandemic. And we met in the Sanctuary because we had the best Internet Connection there for getting the audio and video out of the building on Zoom and over the phone. But in the sanctuary it is hard to have a group discussion. And it takes a lot of energy to heat and cool.

Well, now we have Internet throughout the building, and we are ready to start a new phase of in-person Bible Study. Starting Tuesday, February 6, we are moving in-person Bible Study down to the Fellowship Hall. We will sit with the tables in a horseshoe shape and will still be broadcasting over the Internet through Zoom and on-the-phone.

Plus, we will have coffee and treats for people to enjoy while studying Scripture. (Something we could not do in the Sanctuary). We will still have a big screen to see Scripture, along with Bibles, a place for people to take notes, and an opportunity to share thoughts face-to-face.

Just in time for Lent we will be covering the Passion of Christ as we read and learn from Matthew 26 through 28. Please join us in-person or on-line at 1pm each Tuesday.

Or join us in the Zoom Classroom by simply clicking on the following link <https://cuwaa.zoom.us/j/7720565058>

Or you can join us through audio only BUT you have to let me know by Tuesday morning. Then I will call you at 12:50pm and connect you through my cell phone's conference feature.

Please join us for engaging Bible studies and meaningful fellowship.



The inaugural Ladies Bible Study Class (LBSC) was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Thanks to all who attended and we are grateful for a warm Fellowship Hall! We enjoyed pizza and punch as the Book of James was introduced.

Ladies, you are lovingly invited to join in with us as we venture into James and understand how the teachings apply to our daily lives on February 15, at 5:30pm.



**The Men's Group at Messiah meets the second Saturday morning of the month from September through May. We have the coffee pot on and some sort of snack.**

**It's an opportunity to be in fellowship with other men from our congregation, study the bible, and learn how it applies to our lives.**



**Some of the men had never met because we have three separate church services. We are currently studying Paul's letters to the Galatians. We have plenty of Bibles on hand (and no required homework).**

**If you'd like to get to know more men from our church and study the Bible in a group that has lively discussions, come and join us.**

**For more information call and talk to: Bob Altenberg 608-751-8139, Mark Boos 608-931-3701, or Mark Peterson 608-322-2099.**



**Devotion Resources:** (To help you with your daily meditations with the Lord)

- **Portals of Prayer** devotion books. If we are out, please talk to Pastor Dan
- **LHM.org** for Daily Devotion and other resources to help you with your study of God's Word. The site has audio podcasts, videos, and Bible Studies to download.
- **KFUO.org** the LCMS owned radio station...has audio podcasts.
- **Project Connect** carousel has topical pamphlets to help you with specific challenges you or a loved one may be facing. Located by main church entrance.
- **CD Table:** has previous worship services and Bible Studies edited for you to listen in your car, on your computer or CD player. Located in Narthex.
- **Messiah's Library:** Over in the Parsonage/Sunday School area. Books and videos that are harder to find on the Internet. See Cheryl Sennett or Pastor Dan.

**Please take advantage of these free resources.**



# Holy Baptism



On Sunday Jan. 21st, Bradley Burrows was officially brought into the Kingdom of God through the Rite of Holy Baptism. The power of God's Word through the water confirmed that he is a child of God. Jesus' command in Matthew 28 is to baptize and teach. He does not specify an order. So, we baptize children then teach and with adults we teach then we baptize. Bradley has been a great student being instructed in our New Member class. Praise the Lord, and congratulations to Bradley. On the right is Mark Boos who is the Lay Elder-Deacon who assisted during the baptism.



Last Sunday, Tom Martin, Dennis Berrier, and Bradley Burrows were welcomed into communicant membership at Messiah Lutheran Church. Here they are participating in the Rite of Confirmation where they made specific vows to the Lord and the congregation as part of their Confession of Faith. Not pictured is Pat Martin who was also welcomed into membership. All were instructed over the past few months through our New Member class. Congratulations and welcome to our congregation. May the Lord strengthen their faith as they live their lives as His children.





## Greater Beloit Church Dartball League

Messiah's Dart ball beat the Sun Valley Heat two out of three games on Tuesday night January 30 in our Fellowship Hall.

Dartball is open to all churches in the Greater Beloit community. Presently there are 10 teams. Our team is the Messiah Thunder.

Games are played at churches on Tuesday nights, and the first game begins at 7pm. We play three games nine innings each, unless tied then we go into extra innings. Each player throws darts until they hit a base, hit an out, or they strike out.

The season starts late September or early October and ends in early March. During the season each team has a certain number of home games and away games.

Playoffs run from mid-March through early April. The Banquet for all teams is held in mid-April at one of the churches. This year it will be at Sun Valley Presbyterian Church.

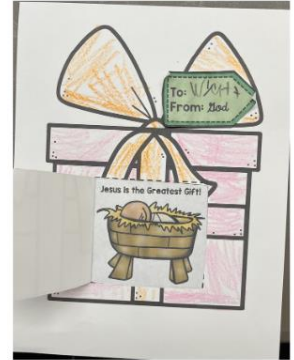
If you wish to be a part of our team, see Chuck Baumann. Teams are open to both men and women.





# OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!

## Birthday party for Jesus. Our greatest gift!



In Sunday school we learned about Jesus telling a parable about a shepherd who had one hundred sheep. When one of the sheep got lost, the shepherd searched and searched until he found it. The parable that Jesus told helped the people understand that every sheep is important to the shepherd. Even if only one is lost he will search everywhere to find it.



In the same way, people are important to God. He does not want anyone to be lost either. Every person is important to God.

We made find the lost sheep games, and made a snack that looked like sheep. We also practiced the bells. We will be playing I am Jesus Little Lamb on January 28th at the 11:00 service.





We talked about being a servant in preparation for doing fellowship and making gifts for the shut ins. When Jesus and his closest disciples gathered for the Passover meal, Jesus performed a task usually done by servants. He was their teacher but modeled true service and love by washing his disciples' feet. He then goes on to teach them that they should show this kind of love and service to others.



**Messiah's Sunday School Children's Handbell Choir played "I am Jesus' Little Lamb" at the 11am Service on Sunday, January 28. The Choir is led by member Tiffany Koenitzer. Thank you to her and her assistance from teachers Cheryl Sennett, Samantha Anderson, and Rebecca Baumann.**

