

**Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2017**

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church: www.messiahlutheranchurch.net
Lutheran Church of Concord: www.concordlutheranrochester.org

Thank you to Tamara Ligtenberg family for hosting Messiah's coffee hour this am. **Coffee hour servers are needed!** If you can help, please sign up on the Communications board.

Operation Christmas Tree FUNdraiser! Today (Sun. Dec. 17), is the last day of the Messiah Christmas Tree Sale. The lot will be open 10 am - 8 pm Please consider purchasing a tree, bough spray, handmade cards, knitwear or gifts for someone special. All proceeds benefit the Messiah Youth Gathering Fund. The "inside" sale will continue thru Dec. 25.

COME WORSHIP THE NEW BORN KING

Please note a few changes to our normal schedule:

Christmas Eve 12/24

5:00 pm AT MESSIAH: Christmas Eve Pageant
7:00 pm AT CONCORD: Christmas Eve Worship
10:00 pm AT MESSIAH: Feast of Music
10:30 pm AT MESSIAH: Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Day 12/25 10:00 am AT MESSIAH

Although it is not necessary to attend the Feast of Music prior to the 10:30 service, it is a part of our worship experience, and respectful attention is requested. Therefore, ushers will close the doors to the Sanctuary when the music begins. Those entering after the music begins are asked to silently enjoy the Feast of Music as part of worship. Christmas greetings should be shared in the narthex, not the sanctuary.

Worship assistants needed for Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm and 10:30 pm and Christmas Day at 10 am. Sign up sheet is on the communication board. Readers are also needed for the **Lessons and Carols services on December 31st.** Sign up sheet is in the white binder.

Please save the date for Messiah's **Annual Meeting** on Sunday, January 28 following the 11 am Worship Service, as well as our **Financial Forum** on January 21 for a more detailed review of our proposed 2018 budget.

Annual Reports It's hard to believe the end of year is almost here. All Messiah HUB members, ministry leaders, and anyone wishing to be included in the Annual report: Reports must be submitted to the church office **no later than Friday, December 22nd.** Thanks.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Angel tree** this year. Whether you purchased a gift or assisted at the party, you helped spread joy and the Christmas spirit to those in need. This year a total of 151 angels were on the tree! Thank you to Stacy Crudele for coordinating this very worthwhile project!!!

Stewardship If you have not yet returned your Pledge Card and Time & Talent forms, please do so as soon as possible. Place them in the treasure chest, the offering, or mail them to church. Thank you!

Pastor's Devotional If you did not get a copy of the Devotional Pastor prepared during her sabbatical, (with illustrations by Matt) they may be found on the benches outside the sanctuary.

Volunteer needed to video tape Pastor's sermons at the 11 am service. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Cathy in the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

Blue Christmas Service Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond Road. Not everyone feels the joy of the Christmas holidays. People dealing with the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, job loss, serious disease, and many other situations may find parties and joviality difficult. A Blue Christmas service allows participants to celebrate Christmas in a quiet manner. Messiah is joining with Greece Baptist, Greece United Methodist and Trinity Episcopal for this service. A reception will follow.

Assisting Minister sign up sheets for January through May are now in the white binder. Worship assistant schedules were mailed out this past week. Be sure to mark your calendars for the dates you are scheduled.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

156 lbs. of food was taken to the **Greece Food Shelf** on Monday! Suggested items: Canned soup (chunky and cream), Hot cereal, Canned pasta and Canned fruit. The blue bin for donations has temporarily been moved to the lower level.

Last Service Team Meeting of the Year – Tuesday, December 19, 4 pm in the Conference Room. All are welcome! Please join us as we continue the discussion of becoming more involved in our community and develop the 2018 Service budget. For any questions, please contact John Corman, 225-6393.

Our next **Soup-er Saturday** is January 6th. Sign up sheets to help and donate food are in the narthex.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Weekly Prayer Cell: Tuesdays 9 am at SoHo Bagel in Stone Ridge Plaza. All are welcome to join us. Any questions, call Royal Stellrecht at 865-6941.

Messiah's Sunday Night Study Please note: Due to the activity after the 10 am service today, 12/17, Christmas Eve next Sunday 12/24, and New Year's Eve 12/31, there will be no potluck or Bible study for the next 3 weeks. Watch for details of our next study in January.

In our increasingly polarized culture, how does our faith inform our perspective on conflict with North Korea or response to natural disasters? Join the **Spiritual Growth Group** for discussion of current events using The Wired Word – linking news to Scripture. We meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 7-8:15 pm in the Conference Room. We love to welcome new participants! Contact Julie Gerstenberger for more information or to be added to the email distribution list for our lessons (jkgerst@yahoo.com, 281-5484).

The **Thursday morning Bible Study** is taking a break for December. Watch for details of our next topic.

Library News Our books on Luther and Lutheranism now have their own shelf in the bookcase on the wall across from the church office. Also, please note our display of Advent and Christmas books. With all the busyness this time of year, let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

Concord's Joy Beyond the Bend provides fellowship and support for those who have experienced a loss. On December 19th they will car pool to the Brook House, leaving the church parking lot at 11:30 am. A short program will follow, back at church. For information or to reserve a spot, call Shirley Bovay at 225-4002.

Concord's Good Will Folks social group. All are welcome to join them at noon on December 21 at the Marriott at the corner of Fetzner and Ridge Rd. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Marion Renfer at 225-1530.

Adult Youth Group! Sunday, January 14th at 2:00, get ready to visit the Susan B. Anthony House, located at 17 Madison Street, Rochester, NY 14608. Please come early so that the tour can start on time! We will be meeting at the Susan B. House. The tour is \$12 per person and there is room for up to 25 people! Each tour will hold 12 individuals. We are really looking forward to everyone coming out! Please contact Megan or Neal Bourque for questions. [315-759-9908](tel:315-759-9908)/ 350-8571. **Please sign up no later than Friday, January 5th.**

This week's Calendar

Sunday December 17

10:00 Worship at Messiah

12:15 Confirmation at Messiah

5:00 Worship at Messiah

Tuesday December 19

9:00 Prayer Cell at Soho Bagel

4:00 Service Team meeting

Wednesday December 20

6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday December 21

7:00 Blue Christmas service

At Greece Baptist

Sunday December 24

10:00 Worship at Concord

5:00 Worship at Messiah

7:00 Worship at Concord

10:00 Feast of Music at Messiah

10:30 Worship at Messiah

Prayer verse for December: *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2: 9-11 (NIV)*

Messiah's Prayers for those known ill, receiving treatment or recuperating: Nancy Anten, Gil VanNorman, Donna Hedstrom, Pat Maibohm, Gerry Bandemer, Vanessa Solveson, Zip Kraemer, Cindy Ling, Stacy Crudele, Molly Fant, Kevin Knapp (Jonmichael's dad), Richard Collins (Karen Treadwell-Collins father, Kodie Kahle's grandfather), David Howe (Tammy Ligtenberg's friend), Michael Coons, Jeff Treadwell (Sheri's brother), Liz (friend of Deb Solveson's), Joanne Knobel (Lynne Hunter's daughter), Grady Albertson (Lynne's grandson-in-law), Susan Sturdevant (friend of the Orlandos), Florencio Rivera (Maer's husband), Myles (Pastor Aileen's nephew), Martha and Harry Warner (Mary Lou Reabold's sister and brother-in-law), Louise Taylor (friend of Vicki Robinson), Kathy Pospula (friend of Joyce King.)

Prayers for our shut-ins & those in the Armed Forces: William Lydic (Pam Nicholl's grandson), Scott Moncrief, Rick (friend of Deb Solveson).

Serving Next Week at Messiah

Sunday (12/24) 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister: Sandy Moncrief

Communion Assistants: Jim Hartmann

Ushers: Doug Webster, Derek Christensen

Sunday (12/24) 10:30 pm

Assisting Minister: Richard Cobb

Lector: Pam Nicholls

Communion Assistants:

Ushers:

