

Messiah Messenger

Caring for and serving others so all may share in God's love.

**January 2023
Volume 61
Issue 1**



Rides with "Gray Lady II" A Message from the Pastor

"Gray Lady II" (my 2009 Toyota Tacoma pickup ministry partner) and I have been driving around Albuquerque for quite a few years. Usually, she is quite content to get from place to place with the least amount of inconveniences. But the last few days she has seemed to be a little despondent. I thought it was the cooling weather and frost on her windshield. She even is showing her age in this cold weather with more noticeable creeks and groans. In fact, she sounds like me when I get up in the morning, so I can appreciate her condition.

So, I asked her what was bothering her. She was hesitant at first. She did not want to be a whiner, but she was disappointed with a few things. One, she pointed out that I have been driving her a little less lately. In my defense, I have been driving her with less frequently because with her years being advanced, I have chosen to have her travel less miles. I thought I was doing her a favor. I did not want to get to a point where we would have to part ways because of her inability to keep up with our driving needs.

She told me what really was getting her into a low feeling was that in her mind Christmas over. The lights and yard decorations which graced houses all around our home and travels would be coming down. It would go back to the "usual dullness". "Gray Lady II" enjoyed sitting in the driveway during the Christmas Season and at nighttime watching the transformation in the neighborhood. For her, now that will all be gone. "Woe is Me," she said to herself.

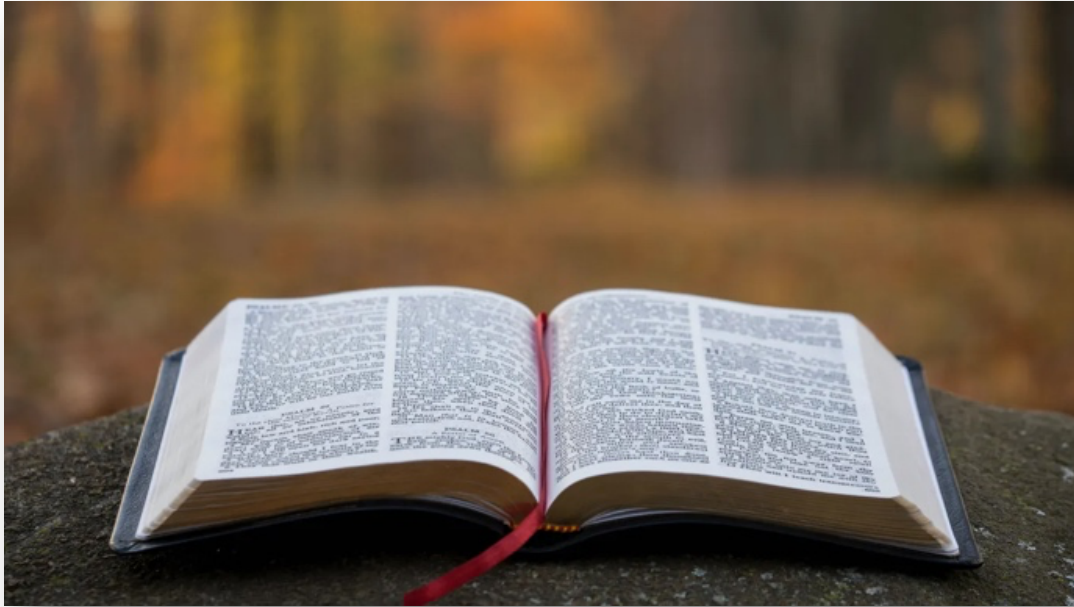
I could feel her despondency. It is so true that when the Christmas Season starts to unveil itself following Thanksgiving Day, the world in its celebratory way, begins to glow with lights, decorations and gift giving and receiving. The aura about the Christmas Season is one of goodwill and peace. It seems that people go out of their way to provide to benevolent causes and involvement in their churches. Inside the homes, there are smells of cookies, pies, ethnic delicacies and meals lovingly prepared; wafting through the rooms like almost no other time of the year. There are some foods and traditions only done at Christmas time. Even at a Christmas service, "the old faithful" Christmas carols are boldly and gloriously sung like never so heard throughout the rest of the year.

I do have to agree with "Gray Lady II" that the Christmas Season is a beautiful time. The lights, the songs, the charitable nature, lifts one's spirit like no other time I have generally noticed. But I do pray that we do not have a let down following this season and going into the New Year. The season is of more than the decorations and few weeks of feeling peace amongst all people. Christ was born into our world to bring more than that into our hearts. His saving incarnation was and is not to be remembered only as a many years ago historical event or a fleeting sensation which is annually culturally promoted.

Christ was not only born into our world in a far-off place named Bethlehem to Joseph and Mary. In the Father's grace He sent His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord to be born into our hearts. Christmas is about the energy and love of God to be in a continuous relationship with His people and creation. I say continuous to highlight that it is more than just a short period of time, remembered with a holiday, but a remembering for a lifetime the salvation Christ would win for us through His birth, humble ministry, Cross and Resurrection. The incarnation, on what we remember as Christmas morning, is not a fixed moment in time but the beginning of a great eternal gift from God.

May the Lord's peace be with you each and every day.
Pastor Doug

January Scripture 2023



<u>January 1st</u> Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	<u>January 8th</u> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	<u>January 15th</u> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
<u>January 22nd</u> Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23		<u>January 29th</u> Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

<p>Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Onsite and Zoom) Fellowship following service</p> <p>Weekday Bible Study Wednesday at 9:30 am</p> <p>Council Meeting 2nd Tuesday this Month at 6:30 pm</p> <p>MLC Women 2nd Saturday of the Month at 9:30 am</p> <p>Sew & Share 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month</p> <p>Craft Class Up and running Contact for meeting time</p> <p>Rising Sun Christian Community 11:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Pastor Doug Mathison office@messiahbq.org</p> <p>Director of Music Katherine Alexander kalex@unm.edu</p> <p>Building & Grounds Carlo Bachechi</p> <p>Church Office office@messiahbq.org 505-299-3311</p>	<p>Please keep in your prayers our family and friends who are in need of our prayers this month. Prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara • Bernadette and Trudy • Andy • Katherine • Rebecca Hauge • Mike and Tyler • Steve McHenry • Dennis Milks • Stephanie • Irene Aldredge • Carole Baker • Loring Emery • Marian Kulju • Helga Lindner • Jacen Hoyt • Dotty Dahl • Pat Baca & Family <p>Serving In the Military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Braund • Daniel Vickers (Navy) • Micah Kesatie (Army Reserves)
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For the Love of Our Neighborhood...

January 2023 ~ EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meetings of the MLCW began again this month on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Our next meeting will be **Saturday, January 14, 2023**. We will meet at 9:30 am in the Messiah Conference Room. The Bible study from the W-ELCA magazine "Gather" will be used.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The study meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am. We usually meet in the Conference Room at Messiah, unless we need to be at appropriately socially distanced. The study is traditionally a study of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel lesson and other designated lessons. You can bring your own Bible, otherwise, there will be handouts of the scripture made available to you.

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL and TOMASITA GRADE SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who provided Christmas cheer to a family of the Kennedy Middle School in December.

The Church Council decided to take the "Reverse Advent" food which were to be left at the church for distribution, to share said food with Kennedy Middle School and Tomasita Grade School. Edna and Eduard, will be receiving on behalf of their needy families of their respective schools our charitable food collection. They will each take the food when school begins around January 5, 2023.

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

President: Steve McHenry

Vice President: K. D. Pass

Secretary: Rebecca Hauge

Treasurer: Lee Danielson

Financial Secretary: Rosemary Butler

At Large:

Ron Kulju

Debra Hoyt

(The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. We have been meeting in person at the church and on ZOOM.)

RISING SUN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

They are meeting once again in our building (and with a digital format for those outside the building). They have been having fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. They are

working on getting a second camera up and running for their streaming service of their worship.

They had their Christmas Potluck Dinner on Sunday, December 18, following their service in the Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP AT MESSIAH

We are worshipping in the church building and doing ZOOM for those not in the building. We pray that this keeps us in touch with the Word of the Lord and each other. Sadly, our ZOOM experience has had its hiccups. Please understand that we are trying but it does not always perform as well as it could. We have also been emailing or mailing a weekly exposition of the weekly worship and lessons. We are having fellowship time following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Most of our eats are prepackaged, but some people bring in treats. Please pick and choose what works best for you and your health. Thank you to Brian and Cassandra Osterloh, KD Pass, Rosemary Butler, Debra Hoyt, Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Gene and Irene Aldredge, and Tony, for their extra assistance in making worship happen during this unusual time. We are having Holy Communion during the service with special directives for practicing social distancing and health concerns. We started using unleavened bread for the Sunday services, beginning April 24, 2022.

Thank you to Carol Hartenberger and Lee Danielson for making the communion bread we are presently using. If others would like to make the bread, we have a recipe available for you.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MESSIAH

- 1) Sew and Share—They will meet of the first and third Tuesdays of each month. They will meet in the Conference Room, at 9:30 am, with some food and fellowship following. Come and have a great time putting together quilts and working with other members of the church. The next gatherings will be **January 3 and 17, 2023.**
- 2) We are in need of volunteers to help our worship services: PowerPoint/ZOOM (run the system); Offering Counters (count, record and deposit the offering); Altar Guild, and other activities throughout the year. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- 3) We have formed a "Vision Committee" to review and look into what is ahead for worship and other activities at Messiah. Presently, the committee consists of Ron Kulju, Steve McHenry, Cassandra and Brian Osterloh, Chuck Danielson, KD Pass, and Pastor Doug. They are interested in visiting with members of Messiah, as we look ahead being a worshipping center for our Lord.
- 4) **Mitten Tree:** The MLCW has a Christmas Tree in the Narthex (red lights) for donations of hats, scarves, mittens, socks, etc. The tree will be into early January.

- 5) **Advent Charitable Drive:** "Reverse Advent Calendar"—We will be giving all the bountiful food donations from our membership and a business of one of our members to Kennedy Middle School and Tomasita Grade School, when school begins again after Christmas break. Thank you to all who gave either to their favorite food bank or charitable facility or dropped off their food at the church.
- 6) **Flowers:** We are looking for people to bring flowers to adorn our flower shelf behind the altar. There is a flower chart on the big bulletin board by the Narthex Door if you would like to pick a certain Sunday.
- 7) **Messiah Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 15, 2023, following the worship service in the Conference Room, and on ZOOM.
- 8) **New Members:** We welcome to our worship family-Cecelia Pepper, Dennis Milks, Linda Milks, Harlan Wilson and Joanny Wilson.

January 2023 NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Messiah Lutheran Church Women Women Officers

President: Rosemary Butler
Secretary: Irene Aldredge
Treasurer: Dotty Dahl

Mission Lead Ladies

Growth: Lorraine Davis
Action: Charlotte Moritomo
Community: Dotty Dahl
Historian: TBD

Sew and Share will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.

- January 3rd
- January 17th

MLCW Bible Study will meet on Saturday January 14th at 9:30 a.m.

Council meetings will take place January 17th this month at 6:30 p.m. (On Zoom)

Treasurer Report November 2023

YTD/MTD	MTD	YTD
Income	\$5,904.16	\$96,294.59
Expense	\$6,628.24	\$77,849.70
Net	-\$724.08	\$18,444.89
Balances	Beginning of Month	End of Month
Checking	\$122,520.10	\$120,945.73
MM	\$18,647.56	\$18,647.71

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Practice) Rising Sun Worship		9:30 am Sew & Share	9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am Taking Down of the Greens
8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bible Study			9:30 am MLCW Bible Study
15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Annual Meeting following service) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am		9:30 am Sew & Share	9:30 am Bible Study			
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship (Choir Anthem) Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am			9:30 am Bible Study			
29.	30.					
9:30 am Worship & Fellowship Rising Sun Worship 11:30 am						

Messiah Lutheran Church

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