

Ready for Christmas

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☒ *Clear the Clutter*

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MESSIAH

READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Tis the season to get ready for Christmas! We decorate our homes, buy gifts for loved ones, and much more to prepare for another Christmas season. In these coming weeks, let's prepare our hearts for Christmas and see our Savior who came to give the greatest gifts!

TODAY'S THEME:

CLEAR THE CLUTTER

We enjoy many comforts of this world. That's not necessarily a bad thing, unless those comforts start to take the place of Christ our King. Becoming comfortable with sin is also a real danger we face. We try to comfort a troubled conscience with excuses or comparisons. In order to receive real comfort that only Jesus can give, our Lord has to prepare the way. The clutter of pride and false comfort and all the other distractions need to be cleared away to make room for our Savior. When everything else is cleared away and we see Jesus we find nothing but comfort in God's forgiveness!



Connect with us!

We invite everyone to fill a connection card.

Scan the code above or sign the guestbook in the lobby.

Welcome to Messiah

Restrooms are located in the fellowship hall. Exit the sanctuary turn right, and go through the double doors.

Kids' Church. Children ages 3 through grade 5 are invited to Kids' Church which takes place during the 10:30 a.m. service. You can drop them off starting at 10:20 a.m. They'll join you in church for the last portion of the service.

Quiet room. Children are always welcome in worship and we love hearing their little voices. However, if needed, a quiet room is located in the fellowship hall. Turn right when exiting the sanctuary and the quiet room will be on the left.

Ushers are available in the entry way to answer any additional questions you may have.

WE WORSHIP THE LORD

Call to Worship

We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW327

In the time leading up to Christmas (Advent), we light the candles on the Advent wreath. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son, Jesus Christ.

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. **(Refrain)**

Refrain

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!***

2 O come, O Root of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **(Refrain)**

3 O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **(Refrain)**

4 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. **(Refrain)**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

*Isaiah sees hope and
life sprouting up
from a dead stump.*

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations
will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

*John the Baptist
prepares the way for
Jesus by preaching
repentance.*

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea
²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is he who
was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ ”

⁴John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry (8:30 a.m.)

CW 316

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come, then, and listen, for he brings
good news about the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin
and furnished for a Guest within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and lift us up to fall no more;
O make your face on us to shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749
Text: Public domain

Prepare the Royal Highway (10:30 a.m.)

CW 302

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story: **(Refrain)**

Refrain

***Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's Word!***

- 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **(Refrain)**
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised King!
Your King, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him!
All nations, now adore him! **(Refrain)**
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: **(Refrain)**

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847

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Message

Matthew 3:1-12 & Isaiah 11:1-10

Clear the way!

He Will Hold Me Fast (10:30 a.m.)

CW 813

- 1 When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail,
he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
thro' life's fearful path,
for my love is often cold—
he must hold me fast. *(Refrain)*

Refrain

*He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

- 2 Those he saves are his delight;
Christ will hold me fast;
precious in his holy sight,
he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
his promises shall last;
bought by him at such a cost,
he will hold me fast. *(Refrain)*

- 3 For my life he bled and died;
Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied;
he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life,
he will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight
when he comes at last! *(Refrain)*

Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984

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Offering

We give thanks to the Lord with our offerings. If you are our guest today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. Members of Messiah give generously and freely out of thanksgiving to the Lord and in support of Messiah's mission to preach the good news of Jesus Christ in Nampa and to the ends of the earth.



Give online.

*If you are interested
in giving an offering
online, you can scan
the code above.*

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 360

- 1 Behold, a branch is growing
of loveliest form and grace!
As prophets sang, foreknowing,
it springs from Jesse's race
and now begins to flow'r
in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it
in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it,
a virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will
this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, and yet true God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory,
who conquered all our foes,
bring us at last, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.
Text: Public domain

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Serving at Worship

Pastor	Justin Gran
Accompanist	Rhonda Henke
Song Leader	Tasha Dick
Sound/Lighting	Hayden Bingaman
Projection	Lisa Hamlin
	Tonya Atwood
Cameras	Josh Bingaman
Ushers	Steve Davis
	Ron Snyder & Barbara Halen

Looking Ahead

Tonight	Advent by Candlelight	6:00 p.m.
December 11	Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 p.m.
December 12	Admin Council/Ministry Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
December 13	Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
	Preschool Christmas Program	7:00 p.m.
December 14	Preschool Christmas Program	7:00 p.m.
December 17	Kids Church Program Practice- All ages	9:00 a.m.
	Kids Church Christmas Program	10:30 a.m.
December 19	Small Group Meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 20	Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
December 21	Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Morning Service	9:30 a.m.
	Christmas Eve Evening Service	6:30 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Service	10:00 a.m.

Announcements

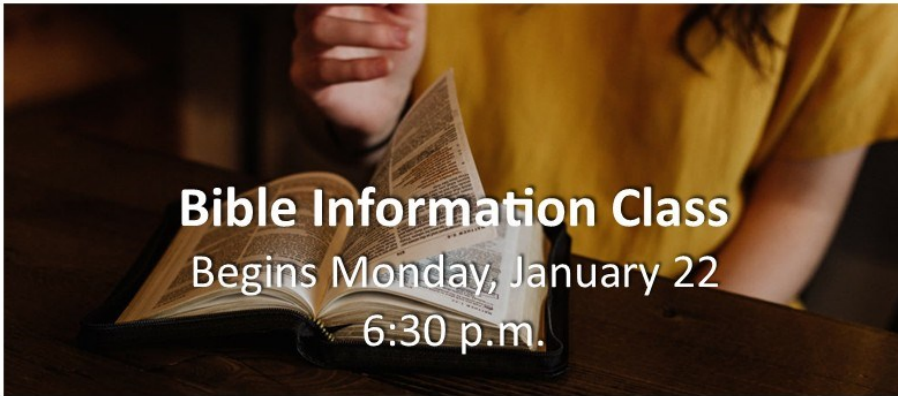
Kids Church Christmas Program

Kids Church Christmas Program is Sunday, Dec. 17th at the 10:30 service. We will have a dress rehearsal/final practice on Sunday the 17th during Bible Class.



Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Morning.....	9:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve Evening.....	6:30 p.m.
Christmas Day.....	10:00 a.m.



What is Bible Information Class?

At Messiah, we offer a 12-week Bible information class called *Foundations*. It's an introductory Bible Study especially for people who are new to Messiah and want to know more about the Bible and what we believe and teach.

Whatever your background or experience, *Foundations* takes us back to the core teachings of God's Word, the Bible, to answer life's most important questions.

While this class prepares individuals for membership at Messiah, you will never be pressured into joining as a member. Come, ask questions, and find answers!

Sign up online at messiahnampa.com/bic

Or

Sign up below

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Gran
pastorgran@messiahnampa.com | 208-505-7676

Cut off the bottom portion and return to an usher or church office

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Childcare: We'd be happy to arrange childcare if necessary. Children will be in a preschool classroom adjacent to the room where the Bible class will be held. If childcare is needed please write the names and ages of children in the space below:



Our Mission

Knowing Jesus, Sharing his Love.

Our Core Values

Servant Heart. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23).

A Caring Community. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

Anchored in the Word. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

Adaptable. "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Outreach Focused. "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

Contact us

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WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.

*Messiah is a member
of the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran
Synod.*

Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Bible Class/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Kids' Church