

# The Messiah

# MESSENGER

**DECEMBER**



**2011**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE



Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA  
 500 Church Rd. Elgin, IL 60123  
 Phone (847) 695-0144 \* Fax (847) 695-2960  
 e-mail: [MessiahElgin@foxvalley.net](mailto: MessiahElgin@foxvalley.net)  
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Dear Friends in Christ,

## *Christmas Blessings*

The prophet Isaiah wrote of the days yet to come when he wrote these words:

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
Those who dwell in the land of darkness, on them light has shined.  
We have beheld Christ’s glory, as of the only Son from the Father.”*

We, too, look forward to the days to come as we await the announcements of the prophecy and the birth of our Savior; the light which shined in the land of deep darkness.

Sunday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>: The message from the pulpit will declare, “READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!” We will pray the prayer for Advent, “STIR UP YOUR POWER AND COME!”

Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>: We will hear how Jesus calls his people to repent, to reorder our lives so nothing will get in the way of the Lord’s coming.

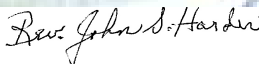
Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>: The tree will be up. Our service will feature the hanging of the Chrismons. These decorations were made by the Messiah Lutheran Church women and depict the birth and life of our Savior. The Worship and Music Committee will serve a special Holiday Continental Breakfast following our worship service.

Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: We will hear how God keeps the promise of the coming of the Messiah. We will hear, along with Mary, the news of what God’s plan is, and she responds:

*“Here am I, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word.”*

Christmas Eve,  
Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: At 6:45 PM, we will gather for special music, which will prepare us for the worship service beginning at 7:00 PM. The story of the birth, life, and death of our Savior will be illustrated by the beautiful stained glass windows of our church. During this special holiday season, let us join with Christians all over the world in celebration of our Savior’s birth.

Sincerely,  
In Christ’s Service,



**John S. Harder, Pastor**



Please call Pastor Harder at home, at 847 515-3976;  
or leave messages for him at the church office.  
He should be contacted about all hospitalizations,  
shut-ins, and any schedule changes.




**Minutes from council meetings,  
as well as committee reports,  
can be found in the binder  
in the church library.**



**Minister of Music.....Margaret Kasak  
Administrative Assistant....Judy Genandt**

**Reminder:**  
There will be NO OWLS luncheon  
during the months of **December** and **January**.  
Check back for future details.



<b>LOCAL BENEVOLENCE - 2011</b>		
<u>Month / Year</u>	<u>Name of Charity</u>	<u>Amount (4 %)</u>
<u>January, 2011</u>	<u>Community Crisis Center</u>	<u>\$ 301.00</u>
<u>February, 2011</u>	<u>Lutherdale</u>	<u>281.00</u>
<u>March, 2011</u>	<u>Zion Lutheran Church</u>	<u>280.00</u>
<u>April, 2011</u>	<u>Lutheran Social Services</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<u>May, 2011</u>	<u>Larkin Center</u>	<u>280.00</u>
<u>June, 2011</u>	<u>Lutheran World Relief</u>	<u>280.00</u>
<u>July, 2011</u>	<u>Salvation Army</u>	<u>280.00</u>
<u>August, 2011</u>	<u>Administer Justice</u>	<u>266.00</u>
<u>September, 2011</u>	<u>ELCA Disaster Fund</u>	<u>260.00</u>
<u>October, 2011</u>	<u>Bread for the World</u>	<u>309.00</u>
<u>November, 2011</u>		
<u>December, 2011</u>		
	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	

# SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

Altar Guild...Donna Appleberg & Susan Davie

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Comm.Asst.....  
 Lector ..... Dick Willrett  
 Greeter.....  
 Usher.....  
 Counter..... Susan Davie  
 PPT Oper.....Rebecca Selby  
 Flowers..... Carrie Schneider

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Comm.Asst.....  
 Lector .....  
 Greeter.....  
 Usher.....  
 Counter.....  
 PPT Oper.....  
 Flowers.....Poinsettias

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Comm.Asst.....  
 Lector .....Mike Maenpaa  
 Greeter.....  
 Usher ..... Dick Willrett  
 Counter..... Ron Zillner  
 PPT Oper ..... None  
 Flowers. Paul&Sue Quandahl/Doris Kastilahn  
 Breakfast.....

**December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)**

Comm.Asst.....  
 Lector .....  
 Greeter.....  
 Usher.....  
 Counter.....  
 PPT Oper ..... None  
 Flowers.....Poinsettias

NO SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25TH,  
CHRISTMAS DAY

**We come together to praise God together.  
 There are opportunities to be of service on Sunday mornings.  
 Sign up to be an usher, a lector, a greeter, or a communion assistant.  
 Worship is enhanced with participation of all.**



**Remember that articles and information  
 to be included in each month's Messenger  
 are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

Articles received after this date will be published in the next month's issue.

**Please e-mail your submission to MessiahElgin@foxvalley.net  
 or drop off a copy to the church office. Thank you!**

~ Judy Genandt, Messenger Editor



## Sundays in December from the Common Lectionary, Year B

<b>Sunday, Dec. 4</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Isaiah 40: 1 – 11; Psalm 85: 1 – 2, 8 – 13; 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a; Mark 1: 1 - 9</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 11</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24; John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 16; Luke 1: 46 b – 55; Romans 16: 25 – 27; Luke 1: 26 - 38</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 24</b> <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i>	<b>Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14 (15 – 20)</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>Isaiah 62: 6 – 12; Psalm 97; Titus 3: 4 – 7; Luke 2: (1 – 7) 8 - 20</b>

The prayer and healing service  
is held the first Sunday of every month,  
immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service.

This service includes prayer for all who suffer, are sick,  
or are involved in ministries, and any who are in need of healing.

The 10-15 minute prayer service begins with and ends with  
responsive prayer and also includes laying-on of hands and anointing.

All are welcome to participate.

On these Sundays, Prayer Cards will be set out  
for all members of Messiah to sign.

These cards are sent on a monthly basis  
to everyone on our prayer list who has provided an address,  
and would like a monthly reminder that there are caring people  
in their lives who are praying for them.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need,  
including those mentioned here by their request: Margaret Stading, Greg  
Carkuff, Eleanor Mielczarek, Charlotte Brainard, Lillian Sanders, Mark  
Zeigler, Linda Nutter, Mary Hawkins, Kristen, Kathy Stempf, Doug Jackson,  
Carol Marvel, Amber Kalish, Monica Roth, Danny Schultz, Laura Seifert,  
Riley Mogan, Kelly Hoepfner, Claire Baddeley, Lillian Magnus, Martha  
Rowley, Irene Savino, and Faith Higgins.



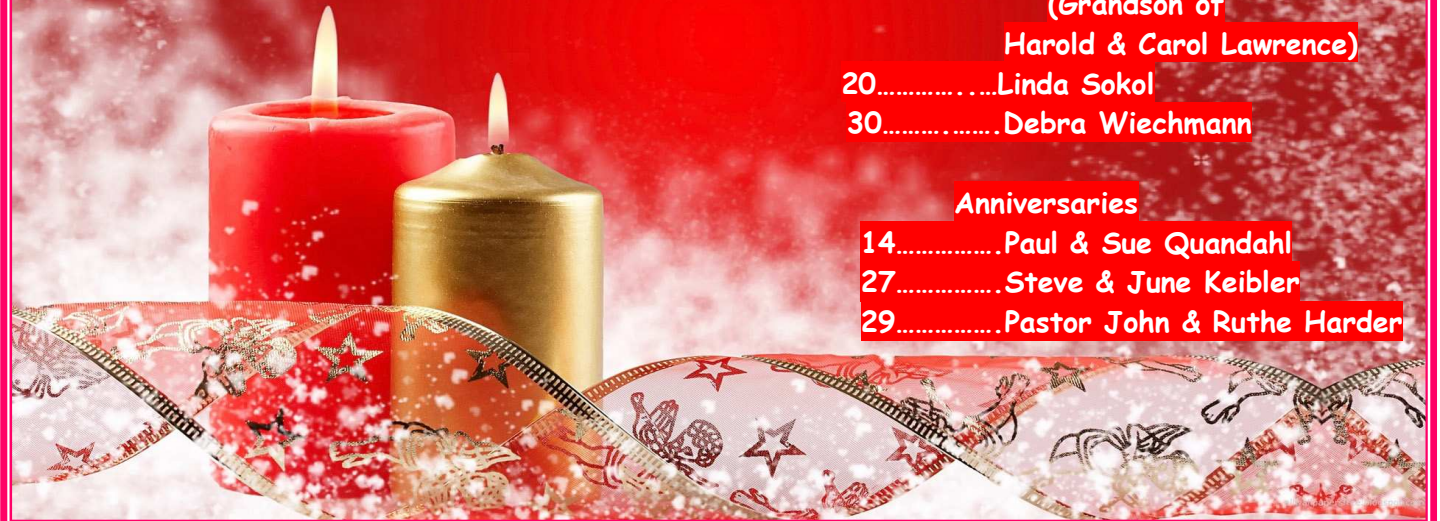
## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

- 4.....Michael Ahrens  
5.....Sandra Borello  
7.....David Edmundson  
16.....Nathan Halsema  
(Grandson of  
Harold & Carol Lawrence)  
20.....Linda Sokol  
30.....Debra Wiechmann

### Anniversaries

- 14.....Paul & Sue Quandahl  
27.....Steve & June Keibler  
29.....Pastor John & Ruthe Harder



on Sunday,  
December 11<sup>th</sup>,  
after worship service  
and breakfast (about noon)  
to Margaret Kasak's  
home in Sun City.  
Address & directions  
will be provided.  
Car Pool available.

### Birthday Cards

Thanks to Charlotte Brainard for her past service in sending greeting cards to our parishioners.

Welcome to Carrie Schneider and Jerry Zoul, who will continue with this service from here on.

Thanks to all!

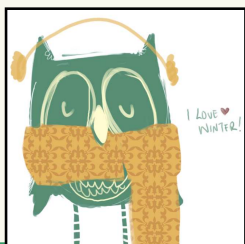
**PowerPoint Slide Show Operator needed:**  
**Volunteers, please list your name on sign-up sheet**  
**on bulletin board in the Narthex.**



Thanks to the generous donations of the friends and family of the Crop Walkers, Messiah raised \$900.60 this year. A special "Thank you" to: Donna Appleberg, Susan Davie, Dave Edmundson, and Amy and Amanda Moog for collecting donations and walking to help end local and world wide hunger.

Please note that a January / February combined issue of the Messenger will be published in mid-January.

Articles, information, photographs, etc., will need to be submitted to the church office by Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. Thank you!



**Note:**  
***OWLS will not meet for luncheons in December or January. Stay tuned!***

*Thank You*



*A big "Thank you" to all of you for your prayers  
and beautiful "Best Wishes" cards—  
and your personal messages, as well.  
There's great comfort in knowing someone cares,  
and I assure you I very much appreciate all your remembrances.  
~ Charlotte Brainard*



**As written in the Friday, Nov. 18, Daily Herald newspaper:  
"Top Newcomer: Jill Wiechmann (5-8 Jr. F)."  
According to reporter John Radtke,  
Coach Michelle Russell "is looking for big things from Wiechmann.  
Jill is a tall and lanky girl  
and we're looking for her to step in and fill a role."  
Jill plays for Dundee-Crown.**

***Swedish Christmas  
& St. Lucia Festival***

***Presented by***

***Swedish American Children's Choir  
Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 3:00 p.m.  
Reservations Required (630) 414-9700  
\$15 Adults; \$8 Children (6-12)***

***Bethany Lutheran Church  
8 S. Lincoln St.  
Batavia***



St. Olaf College Christmas Festival Concert  
will be shown live  
on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 pm  
at Marcus Theatres on Randall Road in Elgin.

*At this time,  
please remember Margaret Stading  
with visits, cards, and phone calls.  
Room 517 at Rosewood Care Center, 2355 Royal Blvd., Elgin  
847 888-6489*

*Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
2:00 p.m.*

*Jeanine Stading*

*Jeanine was born to Norman C. and Margaret Stading on January 21, 1952.  
She was raised with one brother, Thomas,  
and she was baptized into the Christian Faith on March 9, 1952.  
She Affirmed her baptism on September 9, 1967.  
The family came to Messiah Lutheran Church on May 18, 1969.  
She was active in regular worship  
and in the many arms of the ministry of the congregation.  
Jeanine received her Bachelor of Arts Degree  
from the National College of Education, Evanston, IL,  
and began working as a teacher's aide.  
She became employed by AT&T, retiring in 2010.  
Jeanine went home to the Lord on November 13, 2011,  
from St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, at the age of 59 years.  
She was preceded in death by her father, Norman.  
She is survived by her mother, Margaret;  
her brother, Thomas (Charlotte) Stading;  
and two nieces, Linda (David) Stanek and Michelle (Lawrence) Frank,  
and many other relatives and friends.*

*May God bless the memory of Jeanine Stading.*

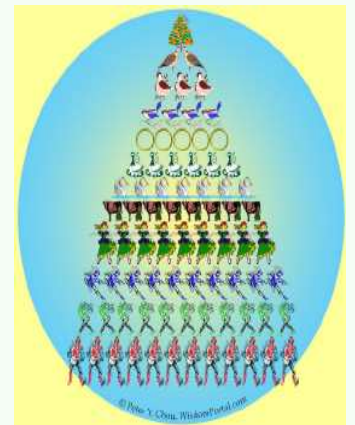
## “The Twelve Days of Christmas”

When most people hear of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith.

From 1558 to 1829, all Christians in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. The song “the Twelve Days of Christmas” is one example of how they did it. “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is, in a sense, an allegory. Each of the items in the song represent something of religious significance. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help young Christians learn their faith.

The song goes, “On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...”

- The “true love” represents God, and the “me” who receives these presents is the Christian.
- The “partridge in a pear tree” was Jesus Christ, who died on a tree as a gift from God.
- The “two turtle doves” were the Old and New Testaments—another gift from God.
- The “three French hens” were faith, hope and love—the three gifts of the Spirit that abide.
- The “four calling birds” were the four Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The “five golden rings” were the first five books of the Bible, also called the “Books of Moses.”
- The “six geese a-laying” were the six days of creation.
- The “seven swans a-swimming” were seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The “eight maids a-milking” were the eight beatitudes.
- The “nine ladies dancing” were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- The “ten lords a-leaping” were the Ten Commandments.
- The “eleven pipers piping” were the eleven faithful disciples.
- The “twelve drummers drumming” were the twelve points of the Apostles’ Creed.



So, the next time you hear “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith.

## *Schedule for December*

*Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (First Sunday of Advent)*



*9:30 am LBW Service*

*with Nicene Creed*

*Lighting of Advent Wreath First Candle*

*Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> (Second Sunday of Advent)*

*9:30 am LBW Service*

*with Nicene Creed*

*Lighting of Advent Wreath Second Candle*



*Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> (Third Sunday of Advent)*



*9:30 am Special "Chrismons" Service*

*with Nicene Creed*

*Lighting of Advent Wreath Third Candle*

*12:00 pm Advent Sing in Sun City*

*Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (Fourth Sunday of Advent)*

*9:30 am LBW Service with Nicene Creed*

*Lighting of Advent Wreath Fourth Candle*



*Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)*

*7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service*



*Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*

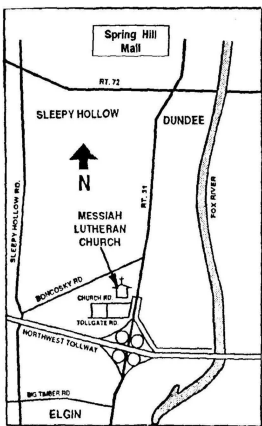
*No Worship Service*



Messiah Lutheran Church  
 500 Church Road  
 Elgin, IL 60123  
Return Service Requested

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with music  
 and sung liturgy and Holy Communion  
 Coffee, tea, and snacks after the service  
 every first, third, and fourth Sunday;  
 Breakfast served after the service every second Sunday



**Proclaiming God's unconditional love**  
 Messiah is located  
 2 miles south  
 of Spring Hill Mall  
 at the corner of Route 31  
 and Tollgate Rd.  
 (847) 695-0144