



# The Messiah **Messenger**

December 2016

Published Monthly

## Family Life

Family life. It can be the best of times and—let’s be honest—it can be the worst of times. Consider these family facts:

- You don’t need remote control for your TV. If you have children, the chances of controlling anything are already remote.
- More ominous than the sound of an approaching riot is the sound of children suddenly quiet.
- A survey of marriage counselors has uncovered this bit of data: no marriage can survive white carpeting.

Everyone needs godly wisdom when it comes to family relationships. That’s why, as we begin a new church year, we plan to learn from the families connected with our Lord’s birth. This includes Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, along with Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John. These families faced infertility, frustration, loss, misunderstandings, death, and so much more. Sermon plans are as follows:

November 30 – **Two Families** (Luke 1:5–25)

December 7 – **A List!** (Matthew 1:1–17)

December 14 – **Open the Door** (Matthew 1:18–20)

Christmas Eve – **Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All** (Matthew 1:21–25)

You are encouraged to be a part of these worship services. *Your family is worth time and investment in God’s word!*

## **HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2016**

Pastor Vanderbilt and the Elders of Messiah Lutheran Church have set the schedule for Holiday Services this year. The schedule is as follows:

**Advent Midweek** services will be on Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, and December 14 at 7:00 p.m. The theme for these services will be "Family Life" as we examine some of the families mentioned in the Christmas story and their struggles and celebrations.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight** services will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

We will celebrate one service on **Christmas Day**, Sunday, December 25. This will be a traditional service at 10:00 a.m.

We will also celebrate one service on **New Year's Day**, Sunday, January 1. This will be a contemporary service at 10:00 a.m.

We pray God's richest blessings on your journey to manger of Bethlehem this year.

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## **PLANNED GIVING BOARD REPORT**

The Board of Planned Giving (PGB) met on November 14, 2016 and was presented with one Grant Request from Trustees, represented by Dave Biergans, for \$9,000.00 to cover a portion of the estimated costs related to the relocation of the dumpster. Some of that amount will be used now to begin site preparation and the remainder held in a restricted account to be used when the work on the project resumes. In 2016, of the \$15,755.85 designated as available for grants, \$15,484.00 has been awarded. Members of the PGB are: Erin House (Chair), Ellen Biergans, Llynn Wagner, Kerry Chubb, Rhett Ried, Sara Vanderbilt and Chris Gilliland. The PGB meets the 2nd Monday of the month. Grant Request Forms are available from Mark Martin in the office.

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## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS**

Christmas Poinsettia Orders are currently being taken through Sunday, December 11. Order sheets and payment envelopes are on the table in the narthex. Plants are \$9.00 each, available in either red or white, and each wrapped in gold foil. Plants will be used to decorate the altar area for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Plants can be taken home following the 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day or left for use during our service January 1st. Please place your payment envelope in Chris Gilliland's mailbox. Contact Chris (Altar Guild) at 694-6803 or at [mrscmgilliland@att.net](mailto:mrscmgilliland@att.net) if you have questions.

**BIBLE STUDY:****The Mission of Jesus, Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos**

I am so excited to be offering the latest Ray VanderLaan Bible study beginning in January. As most of you know, he is one of my personal favorites as a Bible study leader. I think so highly of him I have actually entered a contest through Focus on the Family (who produces his studies now) to go on one of his trips to Israel!!! Talk about geek city if I were to win!!!

We have been going through his many studies over the years and I truly believe he gets better and more passionate the more he produces. This is #14 in his That the World May Know Series.

This study just came out this past summer and is entitled, The Mission of Jesus. The sub-title is: Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos. This is a 5 week study covering the following topics:

Capernaum: Jesus Binds the Evil One

Decapolis: The Other Side-Jesus and the Man From the Tombs

Crucifixion: The Coronation of a King

Ascension: The King Takes His Throne

Pentecost: God Changed His Address.

All these topics lead nicely into our Lent season.

I am going to be leading the class on Wednesday nights beginning January 4th through February 1st at 6:30 p.m. The class will last approximately 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours depending on discussion.

Those of you who are die hard VanderLaan fans (I know who you are!), line up and sign up. For those you have never experienced one of his studies, hang onto your hats! You will not be disappointed and you will definitely not be bored. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex soon to get a head count and order enough materials. The plan is to meet in the Good Shepherd Room. Those of you who have children in Head to Heart, stick around and attend the class. You will have some interesting things to share with them. I am so looking forward to sharing VanderLaan's insights with you next year!!!

Yours in Christ,  
Jackie Lack

**KINGDOM QUEST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

This year's children's Christmas program will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on December 18th. The kids are practicing really hard and are looking forward to it. Please try to attend and see the children of our congregation as they tell the story of our Lord Jesus' birth.



## Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule

5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842  
 www.messiahlutheranholt.org / 517-694-1280  
 office@messiahlutheranholt.org

# December 2016

	12/4/2016	12/11/2016	12/18/2016	12/25/2016
8:30 AM				
Elder	Mark Reister	Ned Gottleber	Ernie Schuette	0
Acolyte	Irene Nielsen	Andrew Rutter	Tyler Rutter	0
Reader	Ellen Biergans	Diane Bennett	Janet Robson	0
Usher	Dave Biergans	0	0	0
Screens	Craig Cumbow	Craig Cumbow	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	
11:00 AM				10:00 AM
Elder	Jeff Rutter	Gene Wilson	Jerry Smith	Mike Wagner
Acolyte	Laney Waugh	Audrey Harmon	Peyton Ried	0
Reader	Teresa Carl	JoEllen Miskowski	Krista Ried	Janet Robson
Usher	0	0	0	0
Screens	0	0	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	Team A2

	12/7/2016	12/14/2016	12/24/2016	12/24/2016
7:00 PM				
Elder	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	Tom Large & Jeff Rutter	Mark Reister & Jerry Smith
Acolyte	0	0	Tyler Rutter	Blake Showers
Reader	Jessica Bonkoski	Janet Robson	Ellen Biergans	0
Usher	0	0	Dave Biergans	0
Screens	Craig Cumbow	0	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A4 & 5	Team A4 & 5



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Trent Stuewe 1	Steven Jenkins 14
Melissa Winkel 1	Patrick Dolton 15
Bonnie Root 3	Barb Dickerson 16
Amber Bitters-Nunn 5	Helen Geiger 16
Nathan Dolton 5	Elaine Volker 16
Elizabeth Malinowski 5	Laurel Jelenek 17
Perry Schweitzer 6	Kaitlin Jennings 20
Leighlend Wurzler 7	Ron Pride 20
Bob McKean 8	Jonah House 23
Ernie Schuette 8	Tasha Mills 24
Kelly Hude 9	Joyce Powers 24
Daniel Blodgett 10	Stan Chubb 29
Carolyn Flamme 10	Marsha Ericks 31
Jenna Greenman 11	Jack Lucas 31
Amy Kelly 11	Alina Powers 31
Steve Stier 11	

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**



Larry & Sandy Russel 12/1/1962	Tom & Sherri Large 12/13/1991
Aaron & Rachel Krause 12/3/2010	Dennis and Dee Greenman 12/18/1971
Joseph & Jenna Criscuolo 12/7/2005	Jim & Laurel Jelenek 12/27/1997





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# DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7p Elders Meeting GSR	2	3
4 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship	5 6:30p Education AT Paul 7p Trustee AT Paul	6	7 6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR 7p Midweek Service	8	9	10
11 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship 6:00p HS Youth Movie Night	12 7p Planned Giving Board Meeting Peter	13	14 11a MCDC Christmas Program 6:30p Head 2 Heart GSR 7p Midweek Service	15 7p Team Meeting GSR	16	17
18 8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship & KQ Program	19	20	21	22 7p Governing Board GSR	23	24 5p Christmas Eve Service 8p Christmas Eve Service
25 10:00a Traditional Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31