


December 14, 2025 • Third Sunday in Advent


WELCOME! We're glad you're here!

At Messiah Church, we covenant to *become love* in word, action, and deed. **We welcome and affirm the full inclusion of all people** — all ages, all races and ethnicities, all LGBTQIA+, all political affiliations, all economic statuses, and all abilities — into the life and ministry of the church. Moving forward in bold hope, we renew our commitment to follow the inclusive example and teachings of Jesus. We choose to *become love*.

This bulletin can also be accessed online on our website and church app. To view the online version, visit MessiahChurch.org/Resources. The online bulletin includes web links for any gray, underlined text.

 **Let us know you worshipped with us** by using our printed or online [Connect Card](#). You can also include a prayer request which will be shared with our Pastors and Prayer Team.

First time here? We'd like to thank you with a donation in your honor to one of our community partners. Select the organization of your choice on your [Connect Card](#).

 **Thank you for financially supporting Messiah Church!** There are many ways to give: an offering box is just outside the sanctuary; online at MessiahChurch.org/Give; through our app; by scanning the QR code; or by mailing your offering to Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

TRADITIONS WORSHIP

8:45 AM

Prelude *The King Shall Come* (Witherup)
 Welcome / [Attendance](#)
 * Hymn #202 *People, Look East*
 Lighting the Advent Candles The Castleberry Family
 Advent Hymn *Sanctuary*
 Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
 Prayer Preparation Hymn #244 (vv 1, 4) *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*
 Pastoral Prayer
 Anthem *See Amid the Winter's Snow* (Forrest)
 * Scripture: [Luke 1:24-45](#) Lorie Hoekstra
 Message *Room In Relationships*
 * Hymn #210 (vv 1, 2, 3) *All Earth is Waiting*
[Offering](#)
 Offering Prayer
 * Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
 ° Postlude *Savior of the Nations, Come* (Radice)

JOURNEY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

Welcome / [Attendance](#)
 * Praise Songs *Unspeakable Joy* (Tomlin)
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (For King and Country)
 Lighting the Advent Candles Mary Docherty and Bill Johander
 Advent Hymn *Sanctuary*
 Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
 Prayer Song *Holy Forever* (Tomlin)
 Pastoral Prayer
 Scripture: [Luke 1:24-45](#) Mary Tucker
 Message *Room In Relationships*
 Anthem *Be Born in Me* (Battistelli)
[Offering](#)
 Offering Prayer
 * Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
 ° Postlude

LOVING GOD. LOVING EACH OTHER. LOVING THE WORLD.

GROW PRAY STUDY (GPS)

A Daily Devotional

Monday 12/15	<u>Luke 1:24-45</u>
Tuesday 12/16	<u>Romans 15:4-7</u>
Wednesday 12/17	<u>1 Thessalonians 4:9-10</u>
Thursday 12/18	<u>Hebrews 2:14-18</u>
Friday 12/19	<u>Matthew 25:34-40</u>
Saturday 12/20	<u>1 Samuel 23:15-18</u>

Find the weekly GPS online at MessiahChurch.org/Resources. To receive the daily GPS by email, contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

PRAYER

Lift Up Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayers for Health and Healing for:

Carol B, Brenda B,
Donna B, Chuck E,
Johnna H,
Dennis L, Ed P

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:

Grant C, Jin J, Tim M,
Tyler W, Elisabeth W

At Messiah, we love walking with children and youth on their journeys to follow Jesus. To do that, we offer several Sunday morning classes: **Children in pre-K through 5th grade** gather for KID Street Sunday School during worship. Kids begin in worship, are released to Sunday School mid-service, and can be picked up downstairs after worship. **Youth in grades 6-8** gather in the Youth Room for Sunday School during both the 8:45 and 10:30 am worship services. Youth begin in worship and are dismissed with the kids mid-service. *All children and youth are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary if your family prefers to worship together.*

Nursery care is available during worship for infants and toddlers (through age 3). Children can be dropped off downstairs in the KID Street HQ before worship begins. Prefer to keep your little one with you? We're not bothered by wiggles or noise! If it's helpful, "busy bags" are available at the back of the sanctuary, and worship is streaming in the atrium and Heritage Hall. Ushers are happy to help guide you.

An **induction hearing loop** is available in our sanctuary for those with t-coil hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Just a reminder that **Messiah Church follows the winter weather closings of the Wayzata School District**. If Wayzata Schools are closed or school district activities are canceled because of weather, Messiah will also be closed and all events canceled. We will do our best to communicate these changes — please check our website and social media for updates, watch local TV for Wayzata School closings, or call the church office at (763) 473-6968 if you are unsure about your event. As always, please use your best judgment driving in any winter weather. Worship is always available to stream online, from the comfort of your home, at MessiahChurch.org/live.

COMING UP @ MESSIAH

Stay connected to all things Messiah during the week at MessiahChurch.org, "Messiah United Methodist Church" on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) and the "Coming Up @ Messiah" weekly email. To receive our weekly emails, contact Carolyn Loeffler at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org, and she will place you on the email list.

Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary on a Sunday morning with fresh flowers? Give flowers in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event, or "just because" — your dedication will appear in the Sunday bulletin. When you sign up for a specific date, you are responsible for

supplying the flowers, and ensuring they are at Messiah before 8:30 am on Sunday, in time for the 8:45 am worship service. (We do not provide the flowers, so no need to make a donation to Messiah.) Take your flowers home after the 10:30 am worship service, pick them up in the church office on Monday, or donate them to Congregational Care to take to those they visit. To reserve a date, sign up on the 2026 calendar across from the library, or contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org or (763) 473-6968 ext 101.

Coping with the death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult experiences, but the **West Suburban Grief Coalition** provides a safe environment and support for those experiencing grief and loss. Messiah is a partner of the West Suburban Grief Coalition. Weekly meetings of this support group gather on Thursdays from 4:30-6 pm at various churches on a rotating basis. Through February*, Grief Coalition meetings are at Minnetonka United Methodist Church ([17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka](https://www.google.com/maps/place/17611+Lake+Street+Extension,+Minnetonka,+MN/@44.911444,-93.561111,15z)). *Please note: there are no meetings on December 25 or January 1; drop-in session for holiday support on Tuesday, December 30. For more information on the Grief Coalition, visit westsuburbangriefmn.org.

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Messiah's Congregational Care Ministry Team also provides confidential, caring concern through personal contact with members of the Messiah family who have a special need for spiritual or emotional support. If this is the care you need, contact Pastor Brian Hacklander, Messiah's Pastor of Congregational Care, at bhacklander@messiahchurch.org or call the church office at (763) 473-6968 ext. 123.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Messiah is a church of compassion and outreach. We serve through mission, locally and internationally. For a complete list of opportunities visit MessiahChurch.org/Make-an-Impact.


Each year, Messiah Church selects two organizations to receive our special Christmas Offering. Your 2025 Christmas Offering is a gift to the Totes for Hope food shelf and the Immigration Law & Justice Network: Totes for Hope is a food shelf ministry of Messiah Church to help minimize food insecurity for Bloom Early Learning & Child Care families. Started in 2018, this self-select food shelf is available throughout the week, all year long, allowing families to take what food they need, when they need it. Your Christmas Offering fully funds purchasing food for this program for the entire year. **Immigration Law & Justice Network (ILJN)** provides free or low-cost legal

counsel, advocacy, and support to low-income immigrants seeking legal status in the United States. Through a national network, they promote justice and foster safety, trust, and belonging. Each year, ILJN serves nearly 7,000 immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers. ILJN was founded by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in 1999 as a ministry of the United Methodist Church, and continues to be a partner organization. For more information on ILJN, visit iljnetwork.org. **You can support these organizations through the end of December.** Give online by selecting "Christmas Offering," or by mailing a check (indicate "Christmas Offering" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447. Our goal is to collect \$12,000 for each of these organizations. *Gifts are distributed evenly, unless designated otherwise.*

Missed the Scouts wreath sale? Still need a wreath or spray? There are still some available! Contact Danell at ddalton@messiahchurch.org to get connected with a scout.

Registration is open for both of the Messiah Youth summer mission opportunities — for students and adult leaders. Youth in grades 7-12 will be serving at [STORM Camp Woodbury](#) (Service To Others in Relational Ministry) July 12-16,

2026. We do two things at STORM Camp: work and worship. Projects include things like painting, yard work, minor construction, and demolition jobs — but we also work to grow in relationships with those we're serving and those we're serving alongside. Youth in grades 9-12 are headed to Louisville, KY, for a [YouthWorks Mission Trip](#), July 25- August 1, 2026. We'll be partnering with local organizations to serve children in the community, spend time with the elderly, and/or serve those experiencing homelessness. In the evenings, enjoy time with new community friends and maybe a visit to Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby. The YouthWorks Mission Trip is a great experience for youth interested in learning more about what they can do to serve the under-served and contribute to the greater good. For more information about these trips, contact Sami Tierney, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, at stierney@messiahchurch.org.

 New items in the bulletin this week.

Submit bulletin items by Tuesday at 3 pm to office@messiahchurch.org.

CONNECT WITH US

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A decorative header image featuring a dark purple and blue night sky with a bright yellow star at the top center. Below the star, the word "CHRISTMAS" is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath "CHRISTMAS", the words "AT MESSIAH CHURCH" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the image, there is a silhouette of a nativity scene with a shepherd, a manger, and a woman.

CHRISTMAS

AT MESSIAH CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

7 PM • TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

An "early" traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with bells, organ, choir, and carols. Enjoy Christmas Eve worship before you leave town or your holiday schedule gets too busy! In person or online live at MessiahChurch.org/Live. Childcare available.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 PM • FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

A family-friendly Christmas Eve candlelight service with the story of Christ's birth, a pop-up Christmas pageant, and familiar carols. In person only.

7 PM • CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

A contemporary Christmas Eve candlelight service, led by The Way praise band, with contemporary music and carols. In person, online live at MessiahChurch.org/Live, or on demand later at MessiahChurch.org/OnDemand.

9 PM • TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

A traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with bells, organ, choir, and carols. In person, online live at MessiahChurch.org/Live, or on demand later at MessiahChurch.org/OnDemand.

A decorative graphic featuring a yellow star with multiple points, centered between two horizontal dotted lines.

SERVICE OF CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 • 9:30 AM

On Sunday, December 28, let's worship together! We'll gather for ONE combined Service of Carols at 9:30 am on this last Sunday of the year. Led by both The Way praise band and organ, we'll sing familiar and not-so-familiar carols and hear stories about them shared by our pastors. If you love Christmas music, you won't want to miss this! In person, online live at MessiahChurch.org/Live, or on demand later at MessiahChurch.org/OnDemand.