

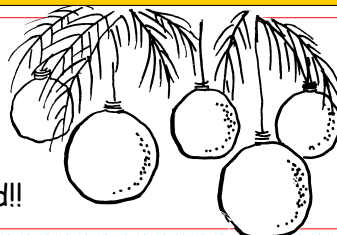
Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

Merry Christmas!!!

Christmas and New Year's closings during the holidays

Messiah will be closed from Thursday, December 23rd through Friday, December 31st. (no tuition will be charged for the week of December 27th).

Enjoy a safe, healthy, peaceful holiday and we will see you when we reopen on January 3rd!!



Messiah Lutheran
Child Care Center

Volume 21 Issue 12

December 2021

Winter Clothing Info:

Just a reminder that we do try to go outdoors to play or to take walks as much as possible during the winter months.

On snowy and/or cold days, please, send a hat, waterproof mittens, scarf, snow pants (or a snow suit), boots, etc. To aid in identification, please, label as many articles of clothing as possible, with your child's name and remind your child which articles of clothing belong to him/her since he/she may not be familiar with new clothes.

WE ASK THAT ALL CHILDREN KEEP A PAIR OF SHOES AT SCHOOL DURING THE WINTER MONTHS FOR INDOOR ACTIVITIES AND WEAR THEIR BOOTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL EACH DAY!!

Please be sure your child's outdoor clothes fit well enough (too large is better than too small) to keep out the snow and cold out and be sure that he/she has a change of clothing (especially pants and socks) that are seasonally and size appropriate. Thanks!



Very Important Updates:

• Attached to this newsletter is a listing of Mes-

siah Lutheran Church's December services . Everyone is welcome to be a part of these services. A special Children's Advent Celebration Service will be held at 10:15am on Sunday, December 19th. Messiah CCC students will be featured during the service singing pre-recorded Christmas songs. You are welcome to attend church on that day, or watch the service on Facebook. All Messiah Church services can be found on [facebook.com/groups/MessiahLutheranPR](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MessiahLutheranPR).

- See attached US and foreign covid travel requirements. PCR Covid tests are needed before entering school from any foreign travel and any time a child has been ill with any covid symptoms. Rapid tests will not be accepted as reentry tests- only PCR.
- During winter afternoon pick ups-To minimize your wait time during afternoon pick-ups, feel free to call our office at 847.825.3767 5-10 minutes before you arrive at Messiah. or call from the parking lot once you have arrived. We will get your child ready for your arrival.



December Birthdays-

- 11 Cora Y.-5 years old
- 14 Alia A.-4 years old
- 14 Emery M.-5 years old
- 15 Stella W-6 years old
- 17 Miss Cindy
- 19 Ani G.-4 years old
- 21 Miss Kirstin
- 22 Miss Janelle
- 25 Happy Birthday Jesus!
- 31 Miss Laura H.



**Covid, flu, cold etc.
Two words:
STAY HOME**

During the cold and flu season, and especially during the continuing COVID concerns, it is VITAL for all parents to be reminded of our school's policies with regard to illness.

Any child with a COVID positive family member (or contact) needs to quarantine for 10 days

after their last exposure to the covid positive person and have a negative COVID test to return to school. Any child who has a family member who has been in contact with a person who has tested COVID positive needs to remain at home and tested along with the family member.

Please follow all state travel quarantine rules, etc. etc. etc.

By keeping yourself safe, you are also keeping Messiah CCC safe. By keeping Messiah CCC safe, you are keeping Messiah CCC open!! Thank you all for your support and generosity.

Any child that has vomited or had diarrhea should remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode and any child that runs a temperature should remain at home until they have been fever-free for 48 hours (unassisted by medication). A covid test would be required to return to school as with any other covid symptom.

In general, if you do not feel that your child can participate in all of the day's activities (including outdoors), it is best that he/she stays at home until restored to health.

The only medication that our staff is permitted to administer, is medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor for the specific child's specific illness. There is a form that needs to be completed before the medication can be administered.

Thank you again for helping to keep everyone as healthy as possible!!

**Miss Pat's
P'nut Cracker**

Miss Pat's dance class P'nut Cracker dance programs will be held at 11:15am on:

- Monday, Dec.13th Miss Cindy's class,
- Tuesday, Dec. 14th- Miss Terri's class
- Wednesday, Dec. 15th- Miss Suzanne's class

The program will be held in the church basement and to maintain covid protocol, only 2 masked adults and a 'video camera' will be admitted for each child. Admittance will begin at 11:05am at the church's north ramp door.



Summer 2022 and school year 2022-23 registration

Materials for summer and fall **2022**

registration will be handed out to each currently enrolled Messiah family during the week of January 24th (earlier if possible). We will guarantee a position (depending on days and hours requested as well as classroom space) for all applications returned with the registration fees and deposits by Friday, February 4th. Beginning on Monday, February 7th, applications will be accepted on a first come basis (from either currently enrolled or outside families) to fill any open positions. Although we will not process any new students until the in-school registration has been completed, the new students' applications will be accepted in the order in which we have received them.

Kindergarten/Jr. Kdgn. Open House

Under usual circumstances, Miss Terri has been able to hold a January Open House during

school hours for children and parents interested in our Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten programs. As of this writing (November 22), protocol still, unfortunately, will not allow that to happen this year. HOWEVER...Families are invited to visit our Kindergarten classroom and learn more about our program by making an appointment for an evening in-person visit. Evening tours of our school, for new or current students, can be arranged by making an appointment with the office. Half hour tours can be scheduled at 5:30 or 6pm.

Children who will have turned 5 years old by September 1, 2022 will be eligible for the '22-'23 Kindergarten class. Junior Kindergarten students should be 5 years old by December 1st.

Kindergarten/Jr. Kindergarten class is held from 9 a.m.-noon every day and is available with extended full or half-day child care (6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) at the same rates as our pre-school programs. We will, again, use the time between 12:30 and 1:30 as an enrichment period (includes math and reading readiness activities) for the children who will be attending during the extended hours program.

The parents of our students have enjoyed the small group attention for their children, the extended hours, the well-rounded curriculum which includes Christian Education and the special care and concern provided by Miss Terri and the rest of the child care staff. Additionally, hot lunch is included in the weekly tuition and NO BUSING is necessary for your child.

We hope you will find time to visit the Jr K/Kindergarten classrooms during an evening and talk with Miss Karen about what our program has to offer your child.



Great for Christmas gifts and Christmas shopping—Manna/Script cards!

Manna/Script cards have been a wonderfully easy and VERY successful fund raiser for our child care center!!! To assist in your Christmas shopping and gifting, we will be placing 2 more Manna/Script gift/shopping card order before Christmas (Monday, November 29th and Monday, December 13th). The November 29th order will include all standing orders for the month of December.

Remember, these cards (Starbucks, Panera, Dunkin Donuts, Lettuce Entertain U, etc.) make wonderful gifts for teachers, coaches, postal workers, bus drivers, friends and family, just to name a few. And, of course, you may use them yourself to purchase Christmas gifts or routine household items at the store (Buy a \$100 Macy's or Nordstrom's card and shop at Macy's (or Nordstrom) with your card, for gifts!!). They are also easy to use at Jewel, Marianos or Target when you are doing your weekly grocery shopping or at a service station when you regularly fill your car with gasoline. Remember, Messiah receives between 2—30% on each card.

Additionally:

1. If you are just not sure which gift cards you might need, you can purchase VISA or DISCOVER pre-paid debit cards in \$50 or \$100 values!!! Again, you can use them for your own shopping, or as a 'universal' gift card for that 'difficult-to-shop-for' person on your Christmas list.
2. You may purchase a manna gift certificate, in any dollar amount. The gift certificate recipient may then personally select gift cards for that amount from the list of cards. Just let Karen or Rita know and a certificate can be printed immediately.
3. There are some neighborhood vendors also available: Moretti's. (write in beneath)
4. If your form is lost or if you need a second form, extra forms can be found on our website or just ask a staff member at the door during drop-off or pick-up.
5. We would be glad to place a standing order for you each month so you do not have to remember to turn in your forms. For example, if you do most of your grocery shopping at Whole Foods or Jewel, etc., have a standing monthly order for \$200, \$300, etc. worth of grocery cards and perhaps a \$100 gas card at your favorite station.

*******NOTE:** Don't be late....The upcoming manna card due dates are:

Monday, November 29th, at 9am (pick up will be by Thursday, December 4th (hopefully by noon)

- Monday, December 13th, at 9am (pick up will be by Thursday, December 16th). You can accomplish a lot of Christmas shopping with one manna order!!!!

Keep a couple of extra cards on hand for those last-minute gifts! Or for January sales!!!

Thank you for your support!

Parking Lot

- PLEASE, for everyone's safety, keep your child(ren) next to you in the parking lots. HOLD HANDS!

- Always drive slowly and carefully through our school parking lot AND NOTE: that cell phone usage is prohibited
- In this very cold or rainy weather you may need to use the fire lane spots for drop off or pick up. Be especially careful backing out of that space.
- PLEASE, do not enter the parking lot through the exit!!.
- Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school safe for all.
- In the past, we have been notified by the Park Ridge police that there have been car break-ins and thefts from cars at some church and business parking lots in Park Ridge. Do not leave your purse or other valuables in your car when you drop-off or pick-up and DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR RUNNING OR LEAVE YOUNG CHILDREN IN YOUR CAR IN THE MESSIAH PARKING LOT EVER! EVEN IN THE VERY COLD WEATHER!! If you notice ANY unusual activity near the cars in our parking lot call 911.

December

Good Neighbor Month

Roll a ball back and forth with your child.

Make finger puppets by cutting off the tips of old gloves and decorating them.



Decorate small boxes for keeping treasures in.

Give your child a roll of masking tape to play with.

Find objects with stripes on them.

Stuff newspapers into a nylon stocking to make a giant snake.

Ring bells while you sing "Jingle Bells."

Count the cars that go up and down your street.

Thank your children for being so helpful.

Hanukkah begins
Play the dreidel game or spin a top.



Jump up and down 20 times.

Glue rice and dried beans to cardboard to make a collage.

Make a shape book out of construction paper and magazine pictures.

Tell what you want to be when you grow up.

Take an evening walk to look at all the holiday lights.

Let your child help you wash the dishes.

Make a sock puppet to play with.



Set out paper, rubber stamps, pens, etc. to play "office."

Do stretching exercises with your child.

Select non-perishable food to donate to a food bank.

Order your child's favorite pizza for dinner. Or make homemade pizza.



Get out old clothes for dress-up play.

Discover holiday smells with your children.

Read a favorite holiday story by candlelight.



Christmas

Enjoy a new game or toy together.

Kwanzaa begins

Take turns naming different kinds of fruit with your children.

Tell your children you love them.

Find red or green things in your home.

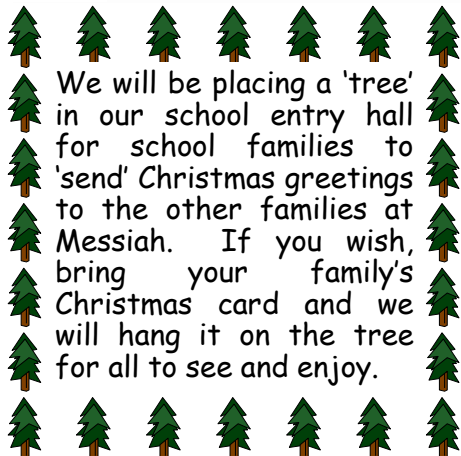
Help your child write thank-you notes.



Sit by a window and name the things you see outside.

New Year's Eve

Make confetti with scissors and a hole punch.



We will be placing a 'tree' in our school entry hall for school families to 'send' Christmas greetings to the other families at Messiah. If you wish, bring your family's Christmas card and we will hang it on the tree for all to see and enjoy.

THANK YOU

for a wonderful, unique year at Messiah. We appreciate that you have selected our school for your very special children. We are grateful for your continued help and support in the midst of these recent challenging years for everyone.

We wish you all a safe, healthy, joyous and Christ-filled Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!!

Sincerely, the staff of Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center



Messiah Lutheran Church

December Schedule

Everyone Invited - Everyone Welcome!!

Hanging of the Greens–Messiah Church Sanctuary

Sunday, November 28th

11:15am-12:30 pm

(please call the church office if you have any questions 847-823-6984*)

Advent Celebrations

Services: Sunday, November 28th, December 5th, and 12th at 10:15am

Special Children's Advent Celebration Service

Sunday, December 19th at 10:15am

Messiah Child Care students will be featured during the service singing pre-recorded Christmas songs

[Watch all Messiah services on facebook.com/groups/MessiahLutheranPR](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MessiahLutheranPR)

Blue Christmas-"A Service of Remembrance"

Tuesday, December 21st

A service for those dealing with grief and loss over the holidays.

7:30-8:15pm

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

Candlelight Service

7:30pm

Christmas Day

No services scheduled

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26th

10:15am



Merry Christmas to All!