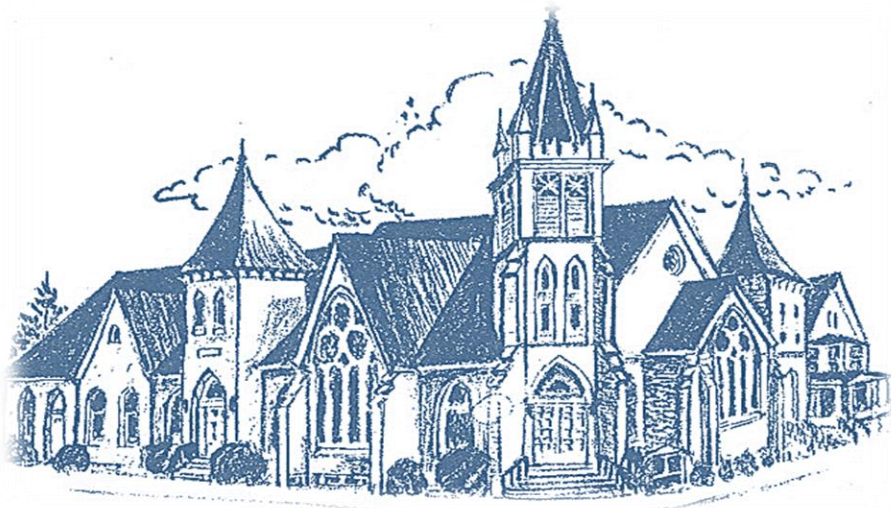


THE MESSIAH HERALD



JANUARY 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

VICAR - SAMUEL LEISTER: sleister@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

TREASURER EMAIL: mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL – CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WORSHIP / COMMUNION – 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S SERMONS OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY!

FACEBOOK LIVE AND AM RADIO 1700 BROADCAST EACH WEEK

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

"Growing God's Love"

The Messiah Herald



MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Messiah Family,

May the blessings of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit be with you all!

We celebrate on January 6 the Epiphany or manifestation of Jesus. This concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

On January 10, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

The remaining Sundays in January are Sundays following Epiphany. We will have our healing service of prayer on January 31 as this is the fifth Sunday in January.

Please remember that we broadcast all services on AM1700 for parking lot and local neighbors. Facebook live and YouTube are ways to connect over the internet. We continue to record audio CD's as well. If you or someone you know would like to receive an audio CD, please call the church office. These are ways in which we share our worship services each week. When we are to a safe point to return to in person worship, we will continue to offer God's Word via this technology.

With me as Vicar of Messiah, you have now completed 14 months of service to our neighbors near and far in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to search out new ways to serve others in need during these extreme times of grief, sickness, loneliness, and struggles. Remain steadfast in your faith in the Love of Jesus to bring to others consolation, attention, happiness, and the peace that passes worldly understanding. Share the message of hope with others around you. Find ways to carry God's Love to others whom we must for now remain physically at a distance but can and must embrace with our spiritual arms and our souls.

May the Lord be with you all!

Vicar Samuel Leister

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

All Front Line Workers, including medical personnel in all areas	Bentley Fulkroad	Elwood Miller
The Family of Bob Bradford	Joan Fulkroad	Larry Miller
The Family of Mary Sanders	E. Michal Gayer	Shirley Miller
The Family of Clark Simonton	Terri Gayer	Jim Minick
The Family of Velma Suloff	Ken Geedey	Claire Mummah
The Family of Donald Welshonse	Edie Kay Gill	Landon Musser
The Family of Jim Yetter	Paul Goss	Darve Nace
Shirley Aumiller	Beth Harris	Austin Parker
Tyson Aurand	Amy Hart	Noel Peachey
Carole Baker	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Dave Phelan
Donna Barton	Sue Henderson	Butch & Sandy Pines
Lindsey Barton	Nox Hepburn	Betty Ranck
Julie Berryman and Gary Bechtold	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Keith Ranck
Nick Beward	Curt & Judy Houtz	Mackenzie Shearer
Roxanne Boyer	Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson	Ronald Shearer
Charlotte Burd	Brenda Imes	Bobby & Eva Sieber
Andrea Cameron	Annie Ingle	Mike Sparks
Pam Campbell	Doc Johnston	Donald Speece
Ruth Cisney	Guy Kerstetter	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Curtis Clark	Denny King	Pastor Charlie Stump
Randy Clark	Darvin Krause	Alice Swartz
Terry Coder	Pam Lawson	Dorothy Towsey
Leann Crimmel	Gwen Swisher Lewis	Rich Walters
Will DeLancy	Carol Lyter	Dr. Glen Webb
Guy Dillman	Fred & Diane Marshall	Erma Williamson
Fred & Dot Dowling	Anthony Martin	Jim Woltman
Renee Dzikowski	Carlen McClure	Mackenzie Wray
Neil & Pat Fisher	Alice McClure	George Zimmerman
Janie Fogleman	Charlie, Amanda & Isabel Meinsler	Linda Zimmerman
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Messiah Mutual Ministry	
	Cecilia Miller	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

JANUARY 1 – Marylou Hazard

JANUARY 29 -- Erin Harris

If you want to add your name to the birthday/anniversary list, or know someone you would like to acknowledge, please let the church office know at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com.

UPCOMING SERVANTS

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 28 to Jan. 31..... Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
February 1 to 28Linda Clark & Chris Martin

CHRIST IN OUR HOME

A reminder to anyone who would like a daily devotional to jump start their day. There are plenty of devotionals in "Christ in our Home," which can be picked up in the church office or in the Adult Sunday School Room and are FREE!

STORE GIFT CARDS

Weis and Giant gift cards are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.



Due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus in the area, WELCA did not meet during the month of December.

Thanks again to everyone who donated to our Christmas Angel project. In such chaotic time, your generosity gave gifts to 83 children from 31 families! Thank you so much, and again we hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and have a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year!!

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)
Jane Marhefka

BROOKLINE MANOR

(2 MANOR BLVD., RM. 226, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)
Gail Henderson

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(3 ALEX CIRCLE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)
Carol Simonton

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108,
THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)
Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

LOCUST GROVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(69 COTTAGE DRIVE, MIFFLIN, PA 17058)
Esther Rhine

AT HOME

Max Ernest	Margaret Guss
1099 William Penn Hwy.	20 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Mona Lawson	Minnie Minick
2792 William Penn Hwy.	187 JAM House Road
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflin, PA 17058

Edith Nipple	Sieber & Ona Stoner
1482 William Penn Hwy.	23591 Route 35 North
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Ken & Kay Stuck	Kitty Walters
66 Eighth Street	P.O. Box 61
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Port Royal, PA 17082

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at sleister@gmail.com. Also, if anyone has any needs or concerns, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know as well. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at sleister@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

“MISSION OF THE MONTH”

January’s “Mission of the Month” at Messiah will continue to be for our local missions, specifically Meals on Wheels and the Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to both programs. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused during the 2020 calendar year due to the shutdowns from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY JANUARY UPDATE

PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tue 9-12 and 1-5, and Sat 9-12



*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.
(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks, or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. *Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is here to receive them. Thank you!

PRAYER FOR HOPE AFTER A DIFFICULT YEAR

Dear God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without You, we would surely fail, but with you, there

is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.

-DEBBIE MCDANIEL, CHRISTIANITY.COM

BIBLE VERSES FOR A NEW YEAR

[Isaiah 43:18-19](#) - "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

[Jeremiah 29:11](#) - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

[Matthew 5:16](#) - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

JANUARY DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY 1	LUKE 2:21-39
JANUARY 2	PSALM 16
JANUARY 3	GENESIS 1:1-5
JANUARY 4	PSALM 19
JANUARY 5	ISAIAH 40:21-31
JANUARY 6	PSALM 8
JANUARY 7	JOB 38:1-18
JANUARY 8	PSALM 33:6-22
JANUARY 9	REVELATION 21:1-8
JANUARY 10	PROVERBS 6:16-19
JANUARY 11	PSALM 1
JANUARY 12	EXODUS 23:1-9
JANUARY 13	AMOS 5:4-15
JANUARY 14	ACTS 5:1-11
JANUARY 15	PSALM 133
JANUARY 16	LUKE 12:1-3
JANUARY 17	JOSHUA 6:12-16
JANUARY 18	GENESIS 29:15-30
JANUARY 19	PSALM 25:1-10
JANUARY 20	ECCLESIASTES 3:1-15
JANUARY 21	PSALM 37:7-19
JANUARY 22	LAMENTATIONS 3:21-33
JANUARY 23	ROMANS 5:1-11
JANUARY 24	MATTHEW 18:21-22
JANUARY 25	MATTHEW 5:21-26
JANUARY 26	PSALM 51
JANUARY 27	MATTHEW 18:15-20
JANUARY 28	MATTHEW 18:23-35
JANUARY 29	1 JOHN 1:1-10
JANUARY 30	PSALM 32
JANUARY 31	MATTHEW 15:32-37

THANK YOU!!

“You helped make a big impact on our community.” Thank You! Your generosity to

Christmas Angels has helped **83 children** from **31 families!** --SONYA NACE

I would like to thank our church family for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, food, and memorial donations in honor and memory of my mother, Velma Suloff. A special thank you to Vicar Sam and Linda for their many phone calls. She would be so humbled by this response. She enjoyed talking with many of you after church and loved knotting all of the quilts. We miss her but she is at peace. --BARBARA S. GEEDEY

My sincere thanks to members of Messiah for the Christmas gift. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. Best wishes to all for a better year in 2021. --JUDY ARMSTRONG

Thank you to my family at Messiah for the Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated. Here's to a much better and healthier 2021. --BOB ST. CLAIR

NEW BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- + When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.
- + The beautiful flowers on the altar this morning are to celebrate the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- + The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.
- + The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.
- + Next Thursday, there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- + The agenda was adopted...the minutes were approved...the financial secretary gave a grief report.
- + The missionary from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine: Name: Bertha Belch. Announcement: “Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the Way from Africa.”
- + A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife.
- + Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? with hymns from a full choir.

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS -- DECEMBER 2020

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
DECEMBER 6	35	\$3,937.26	\$3,430.00	BENEVOLENCE -- \$180.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$140.00 MEALS ON WHEELS -- \$65.00 FLOWERS/POINSETTIAS -- \$72.26 DISASTER RELIEF -- \$50.00
DECEMBER 13	14	\$4,248.50	\$3,832.90	BENEVOLENCE -- \$25.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$250.00 WORLD HUNGER -- \$75.00 FLOWERS/POINSETTIAS -- \$15.60 MEMORIAL FUND -- \$50.00
DECEMBER 20	16	\$3,688.81	\$2,087.41	BENEVOLENCE -- \$80.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$700.00 MEALS ON WHEELS -- \$340.00 FLOWERS/POINSETTIAS -- \$31.40 MEMORIAL FUND -- \$450.00
DECEMBER 27	17	\$4,505.00	\$3,660.00	BENEVOLENCE -- \$120.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$125.00 MEALS ON WHEELS -- \$100.00 MATTHEW 25 -- \$200.00 MEMORIAL FUND -- \$250.00 WORLD HUNGER -- \$50.00

JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SUNDAY, JANUARY 3: SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
-10:30 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 10: BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 17: SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 24: THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 29: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 31: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION

ALL OTHER NON-CHURCH EVENTS AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE, MLCMIFFLINTOWN.ORG FOR ANY UPDATES.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 18–25, 2021

The theme for the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is “Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit.” It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (cf. John 15:1-17).

“Jesus gave his life for all out of his love for all,” said Fr. James Loughran, SA, Director of Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII). “To abide in his love reminds us that we live in a community celebrating our gift of unity.”

The Monastic Community of Grandchamp discerned the theme for 2021 and prepared working drafts of the background and worship materials. These documents subsequently were finalized during an international group meeting sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the International Committee of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches at Grandchamp in September 2019. Fr. James Puglisi, SA, director of the Centro Pro Unione, a ministry of the Friars of the Atonement that includes an ecumenical library and research center in Rome, Italy, served on the international team.

Established in the Reformed Church in Grandchamp, Areuse, in the canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in the 1930s, the Monastic Community of Grandchamp had close ties to the Community of Taizé and Abbé Paul Couturier, a seminal figure in the history of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Today, the community comprises 50 sisters from different generations, churches, countries and continents, called in vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church, the human family and the whole of creation.

In choosing the 2021 theme, the Community of Grandchamp desired to share the experience and wisdom of their contemplative life abiding in the love of God and keeping his commandment of “loving one another as He has

loved us.” They remind Christians worldwide about the importance of praying for the fruits of closer communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ and greater solidarity with the whole of creation.

“In these days of the Coronavirus threat, our world has become smaller,” said Fr. James Loughran, SA. “We are one in our response. More than ever, we need to appreciate the value of Christian unity.”

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25. Those dates were proposed by Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, founder of the Society of the Atonement, who initiated observance of the first “Church Unity Octave” in 1908, to cover the original days of the feasts of the Chair of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), and therefore have a symbolic significance.

Each year, GEII adapts the texts chosen and prepared by representatives of the Vatican and the World Council of Churches and publishes a full suite of print and digital materials and resources for use in celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the U.S. These materials and resources will be available through the GEII website by the end of October 2020.

LWR FACEMASK CHALLENGE

Lutheran World Relief has launched the **75,000 Face Mask Challenge**, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many masks as you would like. If you are interested in participating or want more details, please call Cynthia Smith at 717-994-4999 or email her at gramcynthia49@yahoo.com.

January

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 church offering envelopes are now available to pick up in the Library. Please pick these up before or after Sunday morning services or contact the church office to make arrangements to pick yours up in the church office.

Also, anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2020 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

We are never alone

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The room was spare and dimly lit. We sat on folding chairs in a circle—young Honduran women and some of us from the ELCA. We had come to Honduras to observe the work of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). This is the ELCA's strategy to help youth who have been forced to flee their home countries because of violence, abuse, extortion by gangs and extreme poverty. Amparo is the Spanish word for shelter or refuge.

In this case, AMMPARO partnered with the Lutheran World Federation and the Mennonites to resettle returned migrants—those who had tried to seek asylum in the United States but had failed or had been denied and deported back to Honduras.

One by one they told us their stories of fear and desperation. Not a one undertook the long and dangerous trek north on a whim. They told us about the abuse they had suffered, about family members who had been killed by gangs, about the inability to make a living because of the extortion by organized crime. They talked about the bitter sadness of leaving home and family, and the uncertainty of the future.

I remember one young woman in particular. She was pregnant when she tried to migrate to the United States. She had the baby somewhere along the way. She was far from home, mostly alone and desperately wanted her mother to be with her. None of this is what she had hoped for when she was growing up. Circumstances beyond her control had forced her into this new and strange existence. She and her baby were now back in Honduras—but not at home. Home was too dangerous.

Remember last Christmas? Remember all of the preparations, the travel to be with family? Remember the holy beauty of the Christmas Eve liturgy and receiving Christ's grace and forgiveness at his table? The shopping and Christmas caroling? The in-person gatherings? All that has changed.

The pandemic hasn't forced us from our homes but into our homes, sheltering in place, isolated. Not together, but physically distanced. Not gathered with family and friends, but forced apart because of the threat of infection. Forced by circumstances beyond our control into this strange existence. Oh, there will be Christmas carols piped into grocery stores and other essential services, but they will be painful reminders of how life used to be.

We are reminded of the experience of the exiles in Babylon: "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captives asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land" (Psalm 137)?

I told the young Honduran woman about another young woman who was forced to leave home because of a government decree. She, too, was pregnant and made a long and difficult journey. She, too, was far from home and without her mother when the baby came. She had to find shelter wherever she could. This wasn't what she had hoped for when she was growing up. Circumstances beyond her control had forced her into this new existence.

That young woman was Mary and the child was Jesus. Precisely in our distress, in our dislocation, the Lord shows up. Emmanuel—God with us—makes his home in the very places we find foreign or isolating. The young Honduran woman, and all of us, can find hope because of the birth of Mary's child. There is no God-forsaken place and we are never alone—not in hospital rooms, or sheltering in place, or Zoom calls or on dangerous roads.

Many of us will not be physically home for Christmas, but we are truly home in Christ.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

As seen in the December 2020 issue of Living Lutheran.