

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 Eastern Avenue Wesleyville, PA 16510

Address Service Requested **Dated Material**

Volume 25, Issue 01

Check Out our Web-site: www.messiah-erie.org

Contents:

Monthly Celebrations	2
Daily Bible Readings	2
Worship	
Property	7
Stewardship/Finance	8
Church Life10	0



CYFM	12
Servant Outreach	13
Parish Health Ministry	12
Church Council	15
Contact Information	13
Kid's Page	14

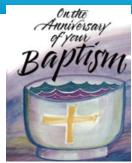
Newsletter Deadline

All items for the monthly Newsletter must be submitted in writing no later than January 15 and are subject to editing. No exceptions.

January Celebrations



- Kaden Brainard
- Carole Pommer Zachary Brown
- 17 Elijah Carner
- 18 Alexandera Anderson Debra Tarasovich
- 19 Gerrie Elias
- 25 Ashley Rogala Corey Brainard, Jr. Kathy Kiehl
- 26 Gemma Brainard



"Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit."

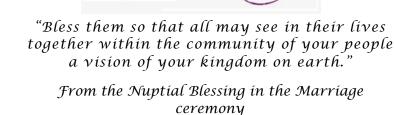
> Gabriella Piccirilli Bonnie Stearns

January

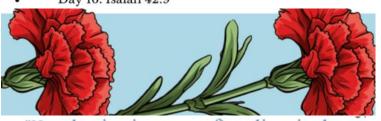
New Beginnings

- Day 1: Isaiah 43:19
- Day 2: Lamentations 3:22-23
- Day 3: 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Day 4: Revelation 21:5
- Day 5: Ezekiel 36:26
- Day 6: Philippians 3:13-14
- Day 7: Romans 6:4
- Day 8: Psalm 40:3
- Day 9: Jeremiah 31:31
- Day 10: Titus 3:5
- Day 11: Psalm 96:1
- Day 12: Ephesians 4:23-24
- Day 13: Colossians 3:10
- Day 14: Isaiah 65:17
- Day 15: 2 Peter 3:13
- Day 16: Isaiah 42:9

- Day 17: John 13:34
- Day 18: Psalm 98:1
- Day 19: Isaiah 48:6
- Day 20: Galatians 6:15
- Day 21: Isaiah 62:2
- Day 22: Matthew 9:16-17
- Day 23: Hebrews 12:24
- Day 24: Revelation 2:17
- Day 25: Mark 2:21-22
- Day 26: Revelation 3:12
- Day 27: Job 42:10
- Day 28: Psalm 147:3 Day 29: 1 Samuel 10:6
- Day 30: 2 Samuel 12:20
- Day 31: Ruth 1:16-17



If we missed your Birth, Baptism, or Marriage Anniversary we apologize. Please contact the church office to provide us with that information.



"New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." - T.D. Jake

Messiah Messenger

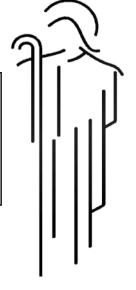
Published by Messiah Lutheran Church

Our Mission:

Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service, and our support

Our Vision:

To build and strengthen the body of Christ





Worship Ministry Committee

Next meeting is:
Wednesday, January 8, at 11:00 am in the Conference
Room

To be part of this vital ministry at Messiah, contact the Church Office - 814-899-6386

Online Worship

We are live streaming our Worship Services on our **YouTube-Messiah Lutheran Church Erie** The videos of the services will be uploaded to our YouTube channel after each church service.

Assisting Ministers and Lectors

The blank schedule for **February** will be in the **Narthex** through **January 19**Please schedule yourself.

If you do not indicate your availability, it will be presumed that you ARE available.

Vídeographers needed



Would you like to help with videotaping the worship services on Sunday?

We need volunteers for both the 8:30 & 11:00 services.

Contact the Church Office!



We are in need of more Assisting Ministers and Lectors for both Worship Services!

Training will be provided.

Contact the Church Office if interested!



The Altar Guild is a very important "behind the scenes" ministry!

The people in this ministry make sure that our worship space is properly prepared for Sunday Worship and other special services.

To be part of this welcoming ministry please contact: Linda Voigt at 899-8618

A New Year: A Season of Hope

As the calendar turns and we embrace the promise of a new year, it is a time for reflection, renewal, and above all, hope. Each January offers a fresh beginning, a chance to set aside the struggles and disappointments of the past and step forward in faith, trusting that God has prepared good things for us in the days ahead.

In the book of Lamentations, we are reminded of the steadfast nature of God's love: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). What a comforting promise this is! Just as the morning brings new light, the new year brings a renewed opportunity to experience God's grace and to grow closer to Him.

Hope is a powerful gift. It anchors us in the storms of life and lifts our eyes beyond our circumstances to the God who holds the future. Romans 15:13 reminds us, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." As we enter this new year, let us commit to being people of hope, spreading joy and encouragement to those around us.

This season, I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on the following:

- 1. **Give thanks** for the blessings of the past year, even amid challenges. Gratitude opens our hearts to see God's faithfulness.
- 2. **Seek God's guidance** for the year ahead. Spend time in prayer and ask Him to reveal His plans for your life.
- 3. **Set intentions** rooted in faith. Instead of making resolutions that may fade, focus on ways to deepen your relationship with God and serve others in His name.

As a church family, we have so much to look forward to in this coming year. Let us support one another, pray for one another, and walk together in faith. Whether it is through worship, fellowship, or acts of service, may we embody the hope and love of Christ in all that we do.

The turning of the year reminds us that time marches on, but God's love and promises remain constant. Let us embrace 2025 with hearts full of hope, trusting that God's plans for us are good and His faithfulness endures forever.

I am honored to be your pastor and I look forward to increasing our ministry and faith together in the New Year! May God bless you richly in the days to come and throughout the new year!

Pastor Tom

PROPOSED VISION FORUMS

The Vision Team is inviting anyone with questions about the proposed Vision to join them in the between the services on January 5 and 12 in the Study Lounge. This will be a time of explanation, discussion, and listening as we approach the January Congregation Meeting.

This Vision will be up for a vote at the January Congregation Meeting and the Team wants to make sure everyone understands the proposed Vision as best as possible so that there is no confusion or misunderstanding at the Congregation Meeting.

Please join the Team and ask any and all questions you may have. Share and discussion any points you want and the Team will be present.

SPECIAL ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE JANUARY 12, 2025 at 4:00 pm

A Sound Bath Worship Service: An Immersive Spiritual Experience

In the quiet hum of modern life, many people seek deeper spiritual connection and peace, often through practices that transcend traditional rituals. One such practice which has gained popularity in recent years is the sound bath worship service, a unique blend of spiritual reflection and auditory immersion designed to foster mindfulness, healing, and connection with the divine.

What is a Sound Bath?

A sound bath is a meditative experience where participants are enveloped by healing sounds created by singing bowls. These bowls produce a range of frequencies that can help calm the mind, lower stress levels, and promote emotional balance. The term "sound bath" refers to the idea of being "bathed" in sound waves, allowing the vibrations to wash over and through the body, mind, and spirit.

The Worship Element

In the context of a worship service, the sound bath becomes a sacred ritual, blending the power of sound with spiritual intention. Often conducted in a quiet, dimly lit space, the service begins with a brief introduction and a period of silence for participants to center themselves. The Pastor guides the group in prayer or reflection, setting an intention for the experience.

As the sound bath begins, the reverberations of the sound bowls become the focal point of the service. The

sound is designed to guide participants into a deep state of relaxation and spiritual openness, often evoking a sense of unity with the divine. In many traditions, sound is believed to be a powerful conduit for spiritual healing and transformation. The vibrations created by the bowls can help clear blockages, balance the energy centers of the body, and deepen one's connection to God.

A Holistic Experience

The beauty of a sound bath worship service lies in its holistic nature. The gentle, immersive nature of the sounds allows participants to let go of the mental clutter that often crowds the mind during traditional prayer or meditation. Some may experience visions, heightened emotions, or deep moments of insight, while others simply find themselves enveloped in a sense of peace and calm.

For those seeking an alternative or complement to more conventional worship practices, a sound bath worship service can offer a unique opportunity to experience spirituality through the healing power of sound. It allows participants to engage with their faith on a deeper level, transcending the limitations of words or thoughts, and embracing the profound resonance of the universe.

Sound bath worship services are a contemporary spiritual practice that combines the ancient art of sound healing with modern worship experiences. Whether used for meditation, reflection, or connection, these services offer a transformative and deeply peaceful way to engage with spirituality in a world that often feels disconnected from its deeper rhythms. In a sound bath, the echoes of the divine are heard, not through words, but through the very vibrations of the universe itself.



EPIPHANY: A TIME OF LIGHT AND REVELATION

As the Christmas season fades into memory, the Church enters the season of Epiphany, a time rich with meaning and spiritual significance. The word "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "manifestation," and this season invites us to reflect on the ways Christ is revealed to the world and to each of us personally.

Epiphany begins on January 6, commemorating the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. This moment, when wise men from distant lands followed a star to worship the newborn King, symbolizes the universal nature of Christ's mission. The Magi's journey reminds us that Jesus came not just for one people, but for all nations, breaking down barriers and offering hope to the entire world.

During the weeks that follow, the lectionary readings focus on key moments when Jesus' divine identity is revealed - His baptism in the Jordan River, His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, and His call to the disciples. In this particular year, we read about Jesus going to the Temple as a child, calling his disciples to ministry and reminding us to remember the poor. These stories challenge us to consider how we recognize Christ in our own lives and how we respond to His presence and His people.

The season of Epiphany is also a time to reflect on light. Just as the star guided the Magi to Bethlehem, Jesus' light continues to shine, guiding us through the darkness of our world. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus calls us to be "light to the world," reflecting His love and truth in our words and actions. How can we be bearers of that light in our communities, workplaces, and families? How can we be a light to the poor, to those seeking Christ, and to those in need of companions along life's journey?

This Epiphany, let us open our hearts to the ways Christ is still being revealed in our lives. Whether through the beauty of creation, the kindness of others, or the quiet moments of prayer, God is always reaching out to us. May we, like the Magi, respond with wonder and worship, bringing our own gifts of love, faith, and service.

Let us journey together through this season of Epiphany with eyes open to God's light and hearts ready to share it with the world.

Blessings for the New Year

Instead of the usual resolutions, I am asking for us to review Matthew, chapter 5 to see how much God has revealed to us and the blessings He offers to the righteous.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they when men shall revile you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Rejoice in the everlasting gifts, for great is your reward in Heaven.

All these things are given to us who obey His word and who keep His commandments. The words belong to Jesus, not to me, for I am just a sinner. His words are powerful and true.

From my family to yours, may 2025 be a blessed year for all of you. Happy New Year!

Your servant in Christ,

Marilyn DiLuzio Rizzo

Combined Service Attendance Streaming services from web site

Date	8:30	11:00	On Line	Total
Nov. 24	19	31	27	77
Dec. 1	0	0	No	services
Dec. 8	No service	10	81	91
Dec. 15	11	25	30	66
Dec. 22	20	45	20	85
Dec. 24	-	54	39	93

^{*} indicates no live stream for one or both services



Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts. Your thoughtfulness fills our hearts with joy!

Cindy, Bonnie & Pr. Tom

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Breakfast a great success! We enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship.



Property Committee

Do you have an interest in helping to keep our church property in top condition?

Join the Property Committee!

Next meeting is January 12 at 9:45AM.

To get information about any project for the church or to Inform us of something that needs to be repaired, please contact Art Anderson at 881-1680

Snow Shoveling Volunteers NEEDED!

We will be needing volunteers to commit to clearing our sidewalks, steps, and wheelchair ramp during the week throughout winter.

A snow blower, located in the garage, is available to use!

Please contact the church office if you are willing to help!



Stewardship/Finance

The goal of our Stewardship/Finance Ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances that God has entrusted to them.

Year - to - Date Financial Picture

The financials can be found posted in the binder marked Council in the Narthex the first Sunday of every month.

Thank you for your continued Financial Support.
Your generosity is most appreciated!

Counter Ministry

Are you good with figures?
Do you like to handle money?
Maybe the Counter Ministry is for you!

Time commitment is about 30 minutes after worship.

Training will be provided! Contact the

Training will be provided! Contact the Church Office if interested.

Make your Contribution from our Website!

Now Live!! Check it out!

Donate



Located on the home page

Members and website visitors will be able to contribute to the ministry happening at and through Messiah from our website. You can choose one time or recurring transactions. You can also choose to cover the small fee!

You can pay for the sponsorship of Altar Flowers,
Worship Aids, and Vigil Candles too. You will still need to sign up for them on the flower chart!

The Stewardship/Finance Ministry Committee will next meet on date TBD in the Conference Room.

Contact the office if you would like to share your talents as part of this important work of the congregation.

DID YOU KNOW...

that your offerings to Messiah Lutheran Church can be made electronically while you're on vacation or if you prefer the convenience of scheduling a monthly/weekly automatic withdrawal from your account?

It's easy to set up the following option:

Electronic transfer from your bank account

For more information, call the Church Office, 899-6386.

Attention Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Members...

Thrivent Members can designate Messiah
Lutheran Church as a recipient of the charitable
giving that Thrivent offers through Choice Dollars.
Visit their website, www.thrivent.com, or call
your Thrivent representative for more information.

To those who have designated Messiah as a recipient of Thrivent Choice Dollars, we gratefully thank you!

For more information about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans contact Vince Kremer, Financial Associate, at 814-878-5727 or visit Thrivent.com



Wesleyville Food Pantry

Please consider a financial gift for the Food Pantry.

Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, marking "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Food Pantry Distribution:

Tuesday, January 7 <u>5-6:00 pm</u> - Country Fair Items Only **Tuesday, January 21** <u>10-11:30 am and at 5-6:00 pm</u>

Thank you for your generosity!



2ND MILE GIVING APPEAL

Our 2nd Mile

Giving recipient for **January** is: **Inter-Church Ministries**

You may contribute through your regular envelope, marking how much to designate to 2nd Mile on the "other" line on your envelope, or by sending a separate donation.

Through **December 26 \$80.00** has been donated for **Mercy Center for Women**

Thank you for your generosity!

Want to know more about our 2nd Mile Giving organization?

The Mission of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County is to be a network of Christian Churches committed to cooperation for the greater good of the religious community and people of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The Vision of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County is to: Witness to Christ through unity among Christian churches, Encourage interfaith cooperation, Share resources with those in need, and to Do nothing separately that can be done better together.

ICM runs the voucher system we used to help those in our community with grocery vouchers.

Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

Eco-Friendly New Year's Resolutions

2025 is here and it's time to make a fresh start. Why not add some ecofriendly ideas to your New Year's resolutions? Even incorporating one new habit will help make a difference!

- ✓ Turn off lights in areas where they aren't needed.
- ✓ Cut back on paper towels; use cotton cloths instead.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Develop the habit of using reusable shopping bags for all purchases, not just groceries.
- Shop locally and reduce online shipping containers.
- Carpool and/or consolidate errands to reduce gas usage (and time).
- ✓ Encourage and participate in tree planting initiatives.
- Change your eating habits. Purchase local meat and produce or plant a small vegetable garden.
- Reduce food delivery packaging; make more meals and snacks at home.
- ✓ Pick plastic-free packaging, when it is available.
- Bring your own food containers to restaurants for take-home food.
- Refuse plasticware that is included in take-out orders.
- Bring along a trash container for picking up litter when you are walking/hiking.
- Advocate for environmental justice by addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities.
- Host a creation-focused Bible study for church and community members using the "Our Kairos Moment: An ELCA Climate Care Study Guide". https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/our-kairos-moment-an-elca-climate-care-study-guide/

It's never too late to start new habits. Tiny steps can bring great rewards!

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

Like and follow us on Facebook: Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

January 2025



Please consider sponsoring the Bulletins during the year. Every sponsorship helps to defray the cost to the congregation. Thank you!



2025 Sponsorships

The completed form, and payment, are due prior to date of sponsorship

Altar Flowers: \$30/1 vase

\$55/2 vases (for same day)*

Bulletins: \$7/service/week*

*(except Easter & Christmas)

Vigil Candle: \$3/service/week

About Our Members

Please keep the church office informed of any changes in your contact information. It is important for us to keep our database up-to-date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Change of Address

Blaine Waters 1028 East 32nd St Erie, PA 16504 Call church office for new phone number.

Pennies for Poverty

An ongoing project of the NWPA Women of the ELCA

Consider dropping your spare change, or even bills, into the container in the narthex for this project.

Each year a charity is selected to receive the money collected by the participating churches.

Church Life

Contact Cindy Anderson at 881-2161 to be part of the Church Life Ministry Committee.

We would love to have some fresh faces helping with our fellowship events!

All Church Life events are for our members and friends to come together in Fellowship.

Please come and enjoy each other's company!



Children, Youth & Family Ministry/ Faith In Action Committee

The Grateful Prayer Group



THURSDAYS AT 10:00 AM
CURRENTLY MEETING BY CONFERENCE CALL
CONTACT JEAN PARKER AT 814-528-5817
OR LINDA FRYER AT 814-899-6899.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Guided Meditation on Mondays is now a "traveling" group. Please call Bonnie Stearns at 814-460-0556 to find out how you can participate in this prayer ministry!

In order to make a Prayer Chain request, please

Every Monday (except the 3rd) 6:30 PM



email or call the Church Office



It's All Greek to Me Bible Study

Bible study with Pastor Tom Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm.

Study lounge

*See you January 8, 2025

CYFM/Faith in Action Committee

Next meeting is **Thursday**, **January 2**, at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room



BOUND TOGETHER

(BOOK REVIEW CLUB)

Wednesday, January 8 at 1:00 pm in the Study Lounge

Jan West With Giraffes by Lynda Ruthledge
(Jean)

Feb The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kierman (Cyndi)

Mar The Women by Kristin Hannah (Sandy)

April ?? (Anna Mae)

May The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (Bonnie M)

COME AND JOIN US!

TANZANIA PRESENTATION

Pastor Tom will suspend Bible study on Wednesday, January 8, to present his trip with the synod delegation to Tanzania. Everything will start at 6:30PM.

Pastor Tom joined the NWPA Synod delegation to visit our companion synod in Tanzania from December 5 to the 17. The synod's partnership with the Karagwe Lutheran diocese has been an ongoing relationship since the 90s, and we have been able to support the burgeoning Lutheran population of Tanzania ever since.

Pastor will share his experience, give updates on the various ministries that are happening in Tanzania and highlight some of the most unique aspects of the Tanzanian Lutheran Church. He will also spend some time talking about Rwanda, Tanzania's neighbor to the west, and their recovery from the 1994 Rwandan Genocide.

The presentation will include pictures and videos and perhaps bad puns! This presentation will end by 8 pm.



Servant Outreach Parish Health Ministry



Servant Outreach/Parish Health Ministry Committee will meet January 5 at 9:45 am.

Sewing Circle

Do you like to sew? Need something to do?

The quilters are meeting again in the sewing room and are sewing up a storm!

Currently they meet on Tuesdays from 10:00 am12:00 pm.

The day of the week can change, so please call Joyce Hauser to confirm.

Project Linus blankets continue to be made in people's individual homes.

If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please call Joyce Hauser at 814-825-3919.

Thank you!

Bethany Outreach

The collection box for donations has been removed from the Narthex, but you can still drop off men's and children's clothing!

Need for Children's clothing, Men's, Women's and Children's underwear.

Clothing can be dropped off at the office or in the library.

Talk to Karen Pistner if you have any questions.



Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

January 7 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

January 13 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

January 20 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

January 21 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

BLANKETS FOR BABIES

Through the Soldiers and Sailors Home we were asked if we could sew, knit, or crochet baby blankets 18x22 that will be part of a kit given to families in the National Guard.

If you want to be part of this project, contact Shirley Damon at 814-899-8805 with any questions or concerns.

This is an ongoing program our ministry would like to support.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Messiah Prayer Shawl group is working from home.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Shirley Damon at 814-899-8805 with any questions or concerns. We can provide patterns, yarn, and instruction if needed.

Thank you!

Prayer Shawls are available at the Church office for anyone who would like one.

Great for baptisms, baby shower/birth, weddings, illness, hospitalization, men, women, or children who need to feel God's love wrapped around them

Church Council

Church Leadership

Council:

Briana Alaniz

Cyndi Allen

Art Anderson

Robin Curtis

Laurie Hecht

Steve Porada

Tim Smock

Blaine Waters

Conference I Rep:

Blaine Waters

Food Pantry Board Rep:

Pr. Tom Glasoe

Committee Chairpersons:

Church Life: Cindy Anderson

CYFM: Candy Sprouse

Mutual Ministry:

Jean Parker

Property: Art Anderson

Servant Outreach:

Jean Parker

Stewardship/Finance:

Brad Bresee Linda Voigt

Worship:

+ No meeting in December

+ Next Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2025

Thank you to those who are serving on Church Council for 2025:

Unofficial Highlights

Please keep these individuals covered in prayer.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2025, at 12:00 Noon

Lunch provided.

Please bring your packet with you to the meeting.

Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

Contact Information

Church Office: (814) 899-6386

secretary@messiah-erie.org

Cindy Anderson: (814) 881-2161 **Bonnie Stearns** (814) 460-0556

bettis1234@gmail.com

Michelle Flaherty: mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org

Pastor Thomas Glasoe: (814) 460-8529

pastor@messiah-erie.org

www.messiah-erie.org

Find out what is going on in the ELCA:

Church-wide - www.elca.org

NWPA Synod - www.northwesternpasynodelca.org

Church Office Hours

Monday Closed

Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm

Wednesday Closed

Thursday 10:00am-5:00pm **Friday** 10:00am-5:00pm

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

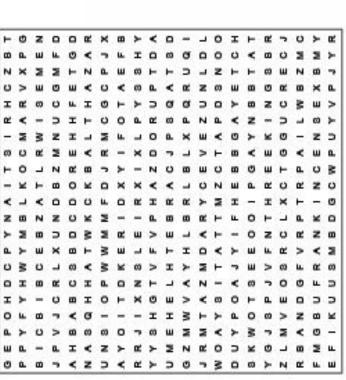
BALTHAZAR BAPTISM BETHLEHEM CASPAR CHRISTIAN EPIPHANY FEAST FIRST MIRACLE FRANKINCENSE

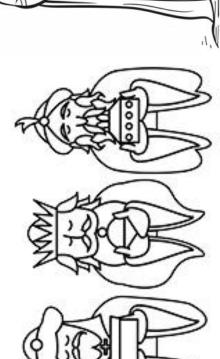
FIRST MIRACLE
FRANKINCENSE
GOLD
HEROD
HOLIDAY
HOPE
JANUARY
JESUS
MAGI

MAGI MELCHIOR MYRRH REVELATION SIXTH SUNDAY THREE KINGS TWELFTH DAY WISE MEN

STAR

පුවුණුවබ්ලෙකා Word Search









Fr Greating A Green World

(OA)

(O)