

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office / 436-6213

The Rev. Chris Mathiason  
Andrea Cameron  
June Bricker  
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Linda Clark  
Diana Wise  
Jace White & Tai Kepler  
Stan & Missy Ehrisman

Interim Pastor  
Lay Worship Leader  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Junior Choir Director  
Altar Guild  
Acolytes  
Greeters

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT HANGING OF THE GREENS December 4, 2016 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to “Prayers of Intercession.”

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Hoist Arr. Lani Smith  
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Andrea Cameron

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

“Good Morning Lord”  
“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Junior Choir

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**C Amen.**

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of all time,

**C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

\* ENTRANCE HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #30 (LBW)

\* GREETING

P Beloved of God, who are called to be saints: grace and peace be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

\* KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy upon us. **C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us. **C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us. **C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 3)

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and gold – en hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

P Lord, have mercy upon us. **C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us. **C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us. **C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you **C And al-so with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

**C Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# *Hanging of the Greens*

## **THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Read by Diana Wise

### **Jeremiah 23: 5-6**

<sup>5</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

### **Isaiah 60:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

HYMN                      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”                      (vss. 1 & 5) #34 (LBW)

## **THE MEANING OF THE CHURCH GREENS**

Read by Jan Groninger

### **Isaiah 9:2**

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

HYMN                      “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”                      (vss. 1 & 3) #60 (LBW)

## **THE MEANING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES**

Read by Kim White

### **John 1:1-5, 9-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural

descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”

(vss. 1 & 2) #58 (LBW)

## **THE MEANING OF THE POINSETTIA**

Read by Cindy Van Gavree

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”

(vss. 3, 4 & 5) #58 (LBW)

## **BLESSING OF THE MANGER**

**P** God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made known your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**C Amen.**

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Away in a Manger”

#67 (LBW)

\* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P For the church throughout the world, for all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, and for all who proclaim the wondrous deeds of God; that all divisions and disagreements cease, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

P For the earth and its creatures, for animals of every size, for plants that provide shade and nourishment; that we see God's goodness revealed in every living thing, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

P For the nations and those in authority, for police officers and firefighters, for social workers and attorneys; that God grant them wisdom to work for peace and justice, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

P For the poor, the meek, the unwelcomed, those suffering from malaria and HIV/AIDS, the sick, the bereaved and (especially for all of our shutins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Bob Cameron, Michal Gayer, Josh Delancey, Letha Swab, Brady Mingle, Belva Fulton, Joan Foltz, and Janie Shearer; that they experience Christ embodied in healthcare workers and caregivers, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

P For those traveling and those absent from this gathering, for those serving in the military, for those preparing for baptism, and for our congregation; that in all we do we praise and glorify God, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who have died in Christ; that they show us the way of hope through the incarnate Word, let us pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**C Amen.**

\* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

Congregational sharing: **“Peace be with you.”**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

What Is This Lovely Fragrance

Paul Manz

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

\* SUNG OFFERTORY “Let All Together Praise Our God” (revised wording)

**Let all to – geth – er praise our God Be – fore his glo – rious throne;**

**For he will o-pen heav’n a – bove To give us his own Son, To give us his own Son.**

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

**C Amen.**

MEAL

\* ADVENT DIALOG

P We have come with great expectation to meet the coming Messiah.

**C All creation waits with longing for the Son of God.**

P As John the Baptist cried in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord.”

**C We prepare a place in our hearts and in the world for his coming.**

P O come to us, Emmanuel!

**C God, be with us and save us from our sins.**

\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel).

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

\* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

\* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

\* BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)**

\* CLOSING HYMN

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

#70 (LBW)

\* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Swedish Melody Arr. Lani Smith

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Ron Yorks

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Harrison Mummah & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S GREETERS – Kate & Kevin Swailes

**WELCOME**

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads but also in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.



GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Andrea Cameron, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church's pilgrimage, the church's inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop's responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

JUST A THOUGHT – Henry Edward Manning, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster (1808 – 1892): A priest ought to be in no place where his Master would not go, nor employed in anything which his Master would not do.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at [dskint@nmax.net](mailto:dskint@nmax.net). If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

THE DEADLINE for all items to be included in the Sunday bulletin is **Thursday noon**.

THE DECEMBER 2016 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and are not already on the list, please send your email address to [stclairb@embarqmail.com](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact Judy directly at the church office at 436-6213 or at [messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net). If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

CHOIR GOWN/CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE DONATIONS UPDATE: Of the \$1368 that was needed, we have received \$410 leaving a total of **\$958 still needed**. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark your check on the note line “choir gowns,” or if giving cash, put in an envelope also marked “choir gowns.” We greatly appreciate those who have already given and thank any others in advance for any amount you feel you can contribute to this project.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. At this time of the year, in particular, there are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email [messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net) for any changes or requests.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>November 27, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Attendance – 62	Attendance – 29	Sunday School -	\$ 70.00
Total Offering - \$1,970.00		Benevolence -	70.00
<u>305.00</u>		Building Fund -	<u>165.00</u>
General Fund - \$1,665.00			\$ 305.00

MESSIAH’S DOORS will be unlocked at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS – Any Messiah member who wishes to receive the monthly financial reports and the weekly tallies by email, please send Ann Beaver ([annbeaver@embarqmail.com](mailto:annbeaver@embarqmail.com)) your email address.

COPIES OF OCTOBER PPC MINUTES are available on the piano in the Adult Sunday School Room.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

MUSIC PRELUDE begins at 7:00 p.m. with our own Bob St. Clair showcasing his talents for our enjoyment, performing an organ concert of Christmas music!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include singing of Carols, a special anthem by the Jr. & Sr. Choirs, and our own Andrea Cameron singing “Ave Maria.” Please plan to attend this beautiful service for the whole family in celebration of anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

MESSIAH UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

- 1) Today is the Second Sunday of Advent featuring the Hanging of the Greens Program (learning about the meaning behind some of our traditions).
- 2) Sunday, December 18, the Children’s Christmas Program will be included in the morning worship service.
- 3) Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Combined Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., a Prelude Concert will feature our own Bob St. Clair with special selections on the organ.

“THE NEEDLERS” CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

CAN TREE – Donations of gallon-size canned food is again being collected this year through the end of December to benefit Bethesda Mission. Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able.

POINSETTIAS to decorate the church for Christmas may be placed in honor or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. The cost is \$8.00 for a 6½ “ plant with 3 to 4 blooms. You may order by calling the church office at 436-6213.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 436-6213 or Sam Leister at 436-8589. A date and time will be set based on those who wish to attend.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held for those who are interested. If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to attend the New Member Class, please call the church office at 436-6213.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT PACKETS (with green covers) are available on the piano. If you have any questions, call Ann Beaver at 436-9382.

HOME COMMUNION – The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for people who would like to give Communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins is used on a quarterly basis. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey. Phone: 436-6433 or Email: [geedey@centurylink.net](mailto:geedey@centurylink.net).

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to press quilt tops for “The Needlers.” Tops can be taken home and pressed and brought back to the church. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of “The Needlers.”

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2017 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact the church office.

WEEKLY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

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.**

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael “Doc” Johnston at 436-9209.

### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 6 children this year for the Christmas Angel Project. A poster with the information for the children is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the child’s name and family number, and returned to the Adult Sunday School Room by today, **December 4<sup>th</sup>**.

ITEMS FOR THE SEAFARERS BAGS will be collected through next summer, that way everyone will get to take advantage of any holiday saving and after Christmas sales for the winter items. Items needed are:

- 1 sweatshirt, preferably hooded (sizes L-XL)
- 3 pairs of socks (thermal or white gym socks)
- 1 pull-over T-shirt (sizes M-L)
- 1 knit heavy winter cap

## **COMMUNITY**

A CHRISTMAS TEA will be held in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to join us for carols, food and fellowship in celebration of the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS EVENT – The Upper Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, 589 Brick Church Road, East Waterford, PA [back road between Blairs Mills and Waterloo] will present “Singing the Songs of Christmas” on Friday, December 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Non-Denominational – ALL are invited!

THE JUNIATA HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA “Season of Wonders” by Joseph M. Martin will be presented on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at **5:00 p.m.** in the JHS Auditorium. Admission is FREE – donations will be accepted for the Juniata County Food Pantry.

**FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**  
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER THE COUNTER  
COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, TISSUES AND PAPER TOWELS

**HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**  
HAMS (3-5 LBS), INSTANT POTATOES

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -Second Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens Service.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion. Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -Third Sunday of Advent.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School /Confirmation Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/ Jr. Church. Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister.  
**-5:00 p.m.**, FREE Annual Christmas Cantata at Juniata High School – “Season of Wonders” by Joseph M. Martin.