

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Robert St. Clair
Carole Nace
Cynthia Smith
Linda Dreibelbis

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2010 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Kevin R., Mary Martha G., Sara D., Avonel and Rick W., Sam Z., Paul W., Bob C., Norman G., JoAnna C. and Pastor E.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

F. Ritter

[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

Jim Bahorik

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who does great things in every generation, who lifts up the lowly, who keeps promises forever.

C Amen

P Let us come to the river of life, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Righteous and merciful God,

C we confess that we have strayed from your ways and walked our own paths. We fall asleep to the needs around us, yet our anxieties jar us awake. We are bound up in systems of unrighteousness and injustice. Restore your people, O God; renew your creation; and have mercy on us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

P Listen to what God is saying, speaking peace to those who turn their hearts: The night is far gone, the day is near. All who have a fearful heart, be strong, do not be afraid! God comes in + Jesus Christ and forgives your sin. The Spirit of holiness fill you with wisdom and might, that you may delight in God's ways.

C Amen

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

* 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.

"Joy to the World" (vs. 3)

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns in – fest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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 also 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

WORD

In today's reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

The First Lesson is from the 11th chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

L – May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

²that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

All – May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

The Second Lesson is from the 15th chapter of Romans.

THE LESSON READS:

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

The Berry Family

* THE VERSE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 2)

O come, O Wis – dom from on high, em – brac – ing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beau – ty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em – man – u – el shall come to you, O Is – ra – el.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Jim Bahorik

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

* 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 Waiting for the fulfillment of our hope in Christ's promised coming, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Holy and blessed God, build unity in the body of Christ. Give harmony to our voices of praise and yearning, so that all peoples may know your abundant goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Renew your creation, and establish peace throughout lands and seas. Give cleansing waters and nourishing soil to plants and animals, and make ecosystems thrive under your care. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Defend the cause of those who live in poverty. Extend your righteousness to all nations. Let no one be neglected or denied the opportunity to live in dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Shower your grace upon all who long to receive your mercy. Deliver those who are bound by extended illness, grief, loneliness, or oppression (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Kevin Reynolds, Mary Martha Gilbert, Sara Dressler, Avonel and Rick Waller, Sam Zeiders, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Norman Gloss, Jr. and Pastor Esborn). Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send your Spirit of reconciliation to families, those victimized by crime, those addicted to drugs and alcohol, and all who know conflict. Give them the peace which you alone can give. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P As we remember the lives of the saints, sustain us also by your Spirit until we receive in full the promises that have joined all generations to you through Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our 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

"Advent Meditation"

D. Eliot

[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].

ANTHEM

"Come to Us Little King"

Junior Choir

* 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 God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

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 God fills the hungry with good things. Come with joy to the feast.

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 In this meal of goodness and mercy, O God, our mouths have been filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. Now send us to gather the harvest of righteousness, that all those who sow in tears may come again to you in joy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 The holy Three, holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and + grant you peace.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"With Joy Unending"

E. Broughton

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the blue 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.

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. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us. We invite you to return. 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.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping 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 Jim Bahorik, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leader persons 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 Lord's Table in specific situations. This is a ministry of the ELCA recognizing the mission need of the church for today and the future. We welcome Jim as our worship leader today and pray God's blessing on him as he ministers to us today.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON. DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Dr. Cecil Murray: "I think prayer envelopes us. 'God, please, there are three of us. Will you come in and make us four?' "

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CHURCH ORGANIST is needed for weekly services, beginning January 1, 2011, at Messiah Lutheran Church. Weekly choir rehearsal, except during summer months. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcimiffintown.org.

CAN TREE – Donations of gallon-size canned food is again being collected this year, now through December, for the “can tree” in the Adult Sunday School Room to benefit Bethesda Mission. Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able. Cans will be delivered to Bethesda Mission later in December.

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 \$7.50 for a 6 & ½” plant with 3 to 4 blooms. You may order by calling the church office at 436-6213. Please order no later than December 15th.

THANKOFFERING ENVELOPES may still be returned today. Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and place them in the offering plate or give them to Claire Mummah. Additional envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

AGAIN THIS YEAR the congregation is collecting a monetary Christmas gift for the pastor. If you wish to contribute, you may do so during Advent or Christmas Eve by putting your gift in the special box in the Adult Sunday School Room, or in the offering plate (designated “Pastor’s Christmas Gift”), or to the church office any weekday. (Please make checks payable to the pastor).

THE 2011 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick up later in December. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2010 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE IN YOUR PACKET, plus the loose plate offering at the Christmas Eve Service goes to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund to help needy people and situations throughout the year. Please be as generous as you can.

THE 2011 FLOWER CHART will be in the Adult Sunday School Room by the end of December. If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come-first-served basis.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, November 28, 2010: \$255.00. Total received in fund to date: \$49,550.00.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ALL the youth of the church are invited to attend a holiday activity full of fun and the spirit of giving this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. We will be baking cookies and packing “trail mix” in gift bags. Pizza will be served followed by caroling and delivering cookies.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 5, Youth holiday activity day at 2 p.m.

December 9, WELCA Christmas Festival at 7 p.m. in the Youth Area.

December 11, 7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at Stop 35.

December 12, "Hanging of the Greens" Service at 10:30 a.m.

December 19, Children's Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:15 a.m.

December 19, Christmas Cantata at 2 p.m. at Juniata High School.

December 24, 7 p.m., Family/Youth Service; 9:30 p.m., Prelude Concert with Louis Lynch; 10 p.m., Candlelight/Communion Service.

January 8, Undecorating the church.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area for their Christmas Festival. Each attendee is to bring a favorite Christmas reading and a "Goodie" for the holiday refreshment table.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the kitchenette with names and sizes of the children for the Women of the ELCA Christmas Angel Project for those who wish to participate. Please have gifts wrapped and delivered to the church by early December. Include the child's name and family number on the outside of the box.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for December: All non-perishable foods, first-aid supplies, over the counter pain and cold medicines, bandages, antibiotic ointment, cough drops, Q-Tips, feminine hygiene products.

COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSALS – The final two rehearsal dates will be held on Tuesday, December 7 and Monday, December 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School Music Room. This year's 14th annual Christmas Cantata performance "*A Light Still Shines*" will be held Sunday, December 19, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Juniata High School.

BELL RINGERS ARE NEEDED for the Juniata County Salvation Army at Mexico Market and Schlegel's Store during weekdays and evenings, Monday through Friday. Individuals, Sunday School classes, or youth groups who are willing to help may call Sylvia Kepner at 527-2386 or Dena Wagner at 436-9699.

A LIVE NATIVITY will be presented on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Maple Grove Sunday School in Licking Creek Valley. Refreshments will be served following the presentation. All are welcome to attend.

ST. JUDE COOKIE JAR CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK – Check baking cookies off your list—we've done it for you! Pick up your cookies on December 11, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to ? at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mifflintown, PA. Come early and have a cup of coffee and shop at our White Elephant Table for unique holiday items (doors open at 8:00 a.m.). Cookie boxes will be \$9.00 each with approximately 4 dozen cookies. Sponsored by St. Jude's Women's Guild.

DINING OUT TO HELP THE HUNGRY – The Family House Restaurant is joining with the Juniata County Food Pantry to raise funds for helping those in need in our community. On Friday, December 17, 2010, the Family House will contribute 20% of your bill to the Juniata County Food Pantry when you present a discount ticket. You can get a ticket through your local church or at the office at the Food Pantry on Main Street, Mifflintown during regular hours. Thank you for helping us to care for the families of our community.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding a blood drive on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at St. John's United Methodist Church, 675 Red Bank Road, McAlisterville from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older (in Pennsylvania 16 year olds may donate with a signed parental consent form), and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood. Most people can donate every 56 days. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification. This blood drive is included in the "Bleed Blue" promotion where presenting donors are entered to win the grand prize bowl game package! Information can be found online at redcrossblood.org/bleedblue. To schedule an appointment call 1-800 Red Cross.

NURSE'S NOTES – Keep tabs on Tylenol use. Acetaminophen over-doses are up because the drug is used in so many products. Besides Tylenol, acetaminophen is in over-the-counter cold medications and in prescription medications such as Vicodin and Percocet. If you take a combination of these products, it is easy to get too much acetaminophen (> 4 mg. a day), which can lead to acute liver failure. Always read the ingredients panel, and check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure before taking any cold medicine.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Second Sunday of Advent.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-2 p.m., Youth Activity Day.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., Community Chorus rehearsal at JHS.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA Christmas Festival.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Sq. Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at Stop 35.
- Sunday:** -Third Sunday of Advent.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., "Hanging of the Greens" Service.