

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn  
Bob St. Clair  
Andrea Cameron  
Lay Assistant  
Randy Clark  
Linda Clark

Pastor  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Sam Leister  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 1, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.

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

### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

**SHUT-INS:** Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Florence B.

**OTHERS:** Tammy W., Audrey L., Josh B., Karl and Margaret G., Darlene Y., Arielle D., Sarah S., Troy B., Riley C., Allen H., Esther L., Rick V., Michael S., Trent P., Charlene A., Wendy S., Gretchen W., Tryon B., Jack S., Todd E., Kim S., Cindy V., Gary C., Jo-Anne B., Linda R., Connor L., Matt H., family of Mary Lorraine H.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

ANTHEM    "Come To Us Little King"    "Jesus Loves The Little Children"    Junior Choir

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our life, our mercy, our might.*

**C Amen**

*P As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*P Great and Holy One,*

**C in this time of waning daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We build ourselves up at the expense of others. We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure. Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay. Come to restore us in your image, remake us into your people, and rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen**

*P Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.*

**C Amen**

\* BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle off this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.*

**GATHERING**

\* ENTRANCE HYMN "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

\* GREETING

*P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, 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. 1)

It came up – on the mid – night clear, that glo – rious song of old,  
from an – gels bend – ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gra – cious king."  
The world in sol – emn still-ness lay to hear the an – gels 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**WORD**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!"*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The First Lesson is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 122

*L – I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)*

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

**<sup>2</sup>Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

**<sup>4</sup>to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

**<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

**<sup>8</sup>For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

**All – I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

The Second Lesson is from the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

\* THE VERSE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1)

O come, O come, Em – man – u – el, and ran – som cap – tive Is – ra – el,  
that mourns in lone – ly ex – ile here un – til the Son of God ap – pear.

Refrain

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

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.*

\* GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

*P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C Glo - ry to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the

owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"

\* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.*

*A brief silence.*

*P Gather all people into your house, O Lord, and open our eyes to your presence among us. Send us as witnesses, that others may see and be drawn to you. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Unite our voices to the great song of praise sung by mountains and rivers, fields and trees. Join our voices with their sin announcing your promised coming throughout all creation. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Transform our tools of war and destruction into instruments for cultivation and growth. Plant peace in places of conflict (especially). Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Be attentive to all who wait expectantly for your mercy in times of crisis, illness, fear, and grief (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Tammy Walton, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, Karl and Margaret Guss, Darlene Yutzy, Arielle Dougherty, Sarah Shellenberger, Troy Burd, Riley Cooper, Allen Hall Esther Long, Rick Varner, Michael Slagle, Trent Phillips, Charlene Aughey, Wendy Swartz, Gretchen Wray, Tryon Benner, Jack Stutts, Todd Eby, Kim Shearer, Cindy Van Gavree, Gary Comp, Jo-Anne Brooks, Linda Rhine, Connor Lauver, Jean McNaight, Helen Knox, Matt Hutchinson, Marian Gross, and the family of Mary Lorraine Hazard). Answer them when they cry out to you. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Heal all who live with HIV/AIDS. Reveal your creative power through those who seek a cure, and give us compassion to bear our neighbors' burdens. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P You have clothed the saints in the light of Christ. Teach us to live in his ways until the great day when he comes to make all things new. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.*

**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

*[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

\* 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:*

**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 Come to the table where Christ comes to make a home in you.*

*(In hospitality and attempting to meet the needs of individuals, Messiah now offers gluten free communion hosts. If you wish to receive gluten free hosts, please come to the side where Pastor Esborn is serving).*

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 of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; 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 God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.*

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

\* CLOSING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

\* DISMISSAL

*P Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor.*

**C Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Sam Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister

**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) 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.

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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to George Hazard, Sr. and George Hazard, Jr. and family on the death of wife and mother, Mary Lorraine Hazard, who died on November 22, 2013 in Florida. Please keep the family in your prayers.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Linda Clark by Junior Church.

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 – David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Welsh Protestant Minister, Preacher, and Doctor (1899 – 1981): A man's God is that for which he lives, for which he is prepared to give his time, his energy, his money, that which stimulates him and rouses him, excites, and enthuses him.

### **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.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY – Sample copies of the new updated membership directory are on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Before final copies are made, members are asked to check their address, phone number and email address to be sure they are correct. Please make any corrections or additions to be included in the directory on the correction sheet provided or call the church office at 436-6213.

THRIVENT CHOICE – Thank you to everyone at Messiah who has designated choice dollars to Messiah. If you are a Thrivent member and have questions about Thrivent Choice please contact Stacie Kint at [dskint@nmax.net](mailto:dskint@nmax.net) or 436-6341.

MESSIAH IS IN NEED of a new treasurer to replace Ken Eyler after his many years of service. If you would like details, please contact Executive Director Guy Dillman or Pastor Esborn.

THE NEEDLERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 12:00 noon in Messiah Church Social Room. This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

DECORATING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2013. A light lunch will be provided following the worship service prepared by the Fellowship Committee. Those attending are asked to bring 1-2 dozen cookies. Decorating will follow lunch.

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE (Chrismons) will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 during the worship service.

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 DECEMBER 2013 "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).

ATTENTION ALL KIDS! – We will begin reading through the Christmas program in preparation for the Sunday School performance on December 22, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Please join us each Sunday in November and December during Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. in the church basement to read parts, sing songs, and celebrate the Birth of Jesus. We have many speaking and non-speaking parts to fill as well as special musical performances! See Christie or Stacie with any questions.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2014 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

CROP/CWS THANKS MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH for participating in the 2013 CROP Walk. The 9 participants and their generous sponsors contributed \$724.00 to help fight world hunger. By joining together, our Juniata County Walkers and sponsors raised \$11,285.45—a great achievement! The Juniata County Ministerium is looking for a few people who would volunteer to organize the 2014 CROP Walk. Have you been looking for a new way to help your community? Do you have organizational skills? Do you like to work with others to make a difference in the world? If so, please contact Graham Fowler at 463-3138 for details on how you can help! Thanks again for your faithful support!

The CROP Committee,  
Graham Fowler, Kathy Whitesel & Becky Zeigler

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. Please order no later than **December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

THE 2014 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.

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 2014 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 2013 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

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.

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, or Cynthia Smith at 436-8512.

### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., 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 Adult Sunday School Room.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Women of the ELCA will be Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Everyone is asked to bring a reading, poem, etc. for the program as well as cookies, candy, bread, etc. for refreshments. Beverage will be provided.

THANKOFFERING ENVELOPES may still be returned to help the Churchwide Women of the ELCA with their many projects. Envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please make checks payable to "Messiah Women of the ELCA."

### **COMMUNITY**

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer drivers, cooks and people to help assemble meals. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

THE FINAL COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSAL will be held on Monday, December 9 from **7:00 to 8:15 p.m.** in the Juniata High School music room. This year's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Cantata performance "JOY TO THE WORLD" will be held Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium with live tableaux as an enhancement to the overall presentation. A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS auditorium.

THE FOOD PANTRY will be working with the Mifflintown Kiwanis Club, local churches and the Boy Scouts to help provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for every person in Juniata County who needs one. We are asking for help to provide over 700 holiday meals this year. For every \$7.00 donated we can provide a complete holiday meal for a family of four. Or we will gladly accept donations of turkeys, hams, stuffing, sweet potatoes, fresh potatoes, fresh fruit (apples & oranges), rolls, and cake and icing mixes. A Thanksgiving grocery give-away will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mifflintown EMS Building for anyone in need. If you are unable to make it on that day, please give us a call at 436-9718. If you will be alone for the holidays, please talk to your local pastor and they will be glad to match you up with a family to enjoy a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. Our vestibule (located on ramp side of building) is open any hour any day to received donations. Cash or gift card donations may be deposited through the mail slot. Hours are Monday and Wednesday, 2—6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Please make checks payable to the "Juniata County Food Pantry," P.O. Box 44, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:**
- First Sunday of Advent.
  - 9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
  - 10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
  - Voters Assembly meeting following worship service. Business: quarterly board reports and vote on the proposed 2014 budget.
  - Lunch in Fellowship Hall (bring 1-2 doz. cookies to share).
  - Church decorating.
- Monday:**
- 8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:**
- 9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
  - 12:00 noon, "The Needlers" Christmas Lunch (last day of sewing until January 7).
- Wednesday:**
- 7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:**
- 1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
  - 6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Friday:**
- 7 p.m., Square & Line Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:**
- 9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
  - 10:30 a.m., Hanging of the Greens Service (Chrismons).