

# 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  
Diana Wise  
Diana Wise

Pastor  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 2, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

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

### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Sarah D., Haylee Y., Gene R., Jesse K., Susan M., Tammy W., Josh B., Matt H., Cade C., Linda F., JoAnn B., Lura A., Herbert B., Jeanette S., Martin E., Pat and Joe F., Dave P., and Jim M.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP  
MEDITATION AND PRAYER  
PRELUDE

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
INTRODUCTION

*Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.*

**C Amen**

*P Let us come before God in confession.*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*P To you, O God,*

**C we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*P Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.*

**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 of 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.*

**C Amen**

**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 (**sung**)

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 alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**WORD**

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The First Lesson is from the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Jeremiah.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

L – *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

**All – To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Second Lesson is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

\* GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

*P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.*

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

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from

fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

\* 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 Filled with expectation and longing, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.*

*A brief silence.*

*P Let us pray for the visible unity of the church; for increasing and abounding love among Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christians; for our own denomination and its leaders. Strengthen our bonds. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for the creation—the sun, the moon, the stars, the roaring seas, the icy streams, the clouds, and all the trees. Heal what we have damaged. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for nations in distress (especially); for soldiers and civilians; for world leaders and local governments; for refugees and prisoners; for subsistence farmers and small business owners. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for all whose hearts are weighed down with the worries of this life (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and Ryan Keresey, Sarah Dressler, Haylee Yocum, Gene Rhine, Jesse Kint, Susan Minick, Tammy Walton, Josh Beitz, Matt Hutchinson, Cade Clark, Linda Farleman, JoAnn Beale, Lura Aughey, Herbert Burd, Jeanette St. Clair, Martin Ehrenzeller, Joe and Pat Forney, Dave Phelan, and Jim McClure). Bring them hope that your redemption is drawing near. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for the youth, the working parents, the single persons, the shut-ins, and those anticipating life changes in our congregation. Keep us alert for your coming. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P Let us give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. Keep us in communion with the saints who now see you face to face. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Hear the prayers of your people, O God, and in your mercy grant us all we need, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

**(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 Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.*

**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 God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

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

### \* CLOSING HYMN

"The King Shall Come"

### \* DISMISSAL

*P Go in peace. Christ is with you.*

**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 worshipping 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.

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 – Walter Elliott, American Catholic Priest (1842 – 1928): Perseverance is not a long race, it is many short races one after another.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

DECORATING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will be held today. 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.

CHRISTMAS GREENS (Service of the Manger) will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2012 during the worship service. Please bring a nativity figure from your manger at home.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES by Augsburg Fortress are available in the church office for anyone who would like one. Cost is normally \$35.00 but we were able to get them at the sale price of \$18.75 plus shipping.

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.

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.

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).

### **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 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area for their Christmas Festival. Please bring a Christmas or favorite reading for devotions and a “goodie” for the refreshment table.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 6 children this year for the Christmas Angel Project. A poster with the information is on the bulletin board in the kitchenette. Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the children’s name and family number, and returned to the Sunday School Room today.

### **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).

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE will be held December 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church for those who are having a difficult time as a result of a death, job loss, health concern, or general sadness this Christmas season. You do not need to be alone in your pain. Come join us and hear prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge God’s presence with us.

THE FINAL TWO COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSALS will be held on Monday, December 3 and Tuesday, December 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room. This year’s 16<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Cantata performance “Season of Wonders” will be held Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium.

### **JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**

#### **BASIC NEEDS:**

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL AND BABY CARE PRODUCTS, PAPER AND CLEANING SUPPLIES.

### HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS:

TURKEYS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, STUFFING, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES, GRAVY MIX, CAKE MIX AND READY MADE ICING.

SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS – If there is a youth group or Sunday School class looking for a special project for Christmas, the Food Pantry is asking area churches to collect children's gifts packed in shoeboxes to distribute to the children of the families who come to the Food Pantry for help. There are about 350 children each month. If you would like information on what items to pack, please contact Kathy Queitzsch at the Food Pantry at 436-9718 or email at [jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com](mailto:jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com).

NURSE'S NOTES – Skip flavored lip balm – Flavored lip balms may tempt you to lick your lips, which can aggravate chapping. To treat or prevent chapped lips, use a plain lip balm with petrolatum, beeswax or an oil-based lubricating cream. Make sure to choose one with sunscreen. ([Online]. October 23, 2012. MayoClinic.com. *Housecall*. Vol. 13, Issue 43).

### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -First Sunday in Advent.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-11:30 a.m., Lunch in Fellowship Hall (bring 1-2 doz. Cookies).  
-1 p.m., Church decorating.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall (last day of sewing until Jan.).  
-11:30 a.m., "The Needlers" Christmas lunch.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.  
-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Sq. Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Christmas Greens (Service of the Manger)/Communion/Jr. Church.