

THE MESSIAH HERALD



DECEMBER, 2014

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

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THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

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[MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR](#)

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[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

“Proclaiming God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ and his People”

The Messiah Herald



December 2014

As the Christmas song goes, “It’s a won..., wonderful time of the year.” There is so much seasonal excitement.

Above everything else Christmas is about the incarnation of Christ in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

The divine presence that is behind all the order and power of the universe has donned swaddling and accepted the humblest of beginning just like you and me.

Faith and trust that God is present in the child of Bethlehem and in the promise of the Eucharistic table is all the real hope we can pray to hold.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Christmas song goes, “It’s a won..., wonderful time of the year.” There is so much seasonal excitement. Stores are ringing with seasonal songs. Trees big and small are decorated with sparkling lights. Shoppers busy bustling around to find the perfect present for family members. Rush, rush, rush. Too often all the excitement misses the most important about the season. Too often it all misses the reason for the season.

Above everything else Christmas is about the incarnation of Christ in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The message is that the God of Israel, the one who held all the terrible power of the creation, the one who raised the mountains, who dug out the depths of the sea, who stills the storms and makes the earth quake this horrible divine power has now drawn near in a human child and is called Emmanuel, God with us.

The divine presence that is behind all the order and power of the universe has donned swaddling and accepted the humblest of beginning just like you and me. He is the king the magi seek and who is promised to the shepherd high in the fields working and caring for their charges.

Ebola, ISIS, political division and anything else that makes our knees quiver in shake in this world, everything that scares and unnerves us is nothing compared to the power resting gently in Mary’s arms. This child shielded from the threats of this world like Herod, poverty, and an itinerant life is so powerful that even death will not hold him in the grave.

It is because of this power captured in the promise of a child that we need not fear cancer or any illness, that we can celebrate everyday easy or hard, that we whistle in the face of darkness and the grave because God is with us. Faith and trust that God is present in the child of Bethlehem and in the promise of the Eucharistic table is all the real hope we can pray to hold.

As we move through Advent and watch each week for the coming celebration of the Christ child let us keep our ears and our hearts open so that Christ may be truly present in our celebrations. This Christmas please invite friends and family to join in the glorious festival of lights in our Candlelight Christmas service.

Please, “Go Tell It on the Mountain that Jesus Christ is Born.”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

December 1: Romans 10:10-18
December 2: Hosea 6:1-6
December 3: Mark 11:27-33
December 4: Isaiah 40:1-11
December 5: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
December 6: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
December 7: Mark 1:1-8
December 8: Habakkuk 3:2-6
December 9: Philippians 3:12-16
December 10: Ephesians 6:10-17
December 11: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
December 12: Psalm 126
December 13: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
December 14: John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 15: Hebrews 1:1-4
December 16: Hebrews 1:5-14
December 17: 2 Samuel 6:1-11
December 18: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
December 19: Luke 1:46b-55
December 20: Romans 16:25-27
December 21: Luke 1:26-38
December 22: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
December 23: James 1:17-18
December 24: Luke 2:1-20
December 25: John 1:1-14
December 26: Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
December 27: 1 John 1:1-9
December 28: Luke 2:22-40
December 29: Matthew 2:13-18
December 30: Proverbs 9:1-12
December 31: Revelation 21:1-6a

**DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS
AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!**

DECEMBER SCHEDULES

LECTORS

7: Sam Leister
14: Linda Leister
21: Bob St. Clair
28: Barbara S. Geedey

GREETERS & USHERS

Dec. 7: Ken, Tawny, Harrison, Haley &
Olivia Mummah

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 1—Dec. 7 Linda Clark
Dec. 8—Dec. 14 Linda Leister
Dec. 15—Dec. 21 Christie Holderman
Dec. 22—Dec. 28 Barbara S. Geedey &
Sandy Pines
Dec. 29—Jan. 4 Kay Varner
(cup communion) Clint & Jamie Miller

ALTAR FLOWERS

7: OPEN
14: Judy Armstrong
21: Don & Barb Geedey
28: NO FLOWERS



PRAYER CHAIN

Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dkint@nmax.net or 436-6341.

If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

Women of the ELCA 

Messiah Women of the ELCA met on November 13, 2014. The meeting was opened with devotions by Barb Geedey from Christ In Our Home followed by the business meeting. Items discussed were: Christmas Angel Project (there are still several needed gifts), Seafarers Project (shop now through the winter for items on sale), our new Advent Banner presented to the church by monies from the Zendt Estate and the sale of Weis Club Cards by the congregation in memory of Andrew

and Ruth Zendt. We also hope to begin a knitting project with devotions beginning in January.

The new banner will be dedicated on the first Sunday in Advent.

Items for the Seafarers Project are: sweatshirts (preferably hooded in sizes L-XL, thermal or white gym socks (no dress socks), casual pull-over T-shirts in sizes M-L, and heavy knit winter caps.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Program on December 11 with no business meeting. Everyone is asked to bring something to read or share with the group and a snack, cookie, bread, etc. for refreshments. Barb will provide the beverage.

Our program was knotting a quilt in which everyone participated and we enjoyed great fellowship.

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.

Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 7 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 child's name and family number, and returned to the Adult Sunday School Room by **December 7, 2014.**



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Thankoffering Service meaningful and the meal that followed a success.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 7 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 child's name and family number, and returned to the Adult Sunday School Room by **December 7, 2014.**



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Volunteer drivers and cooks are needed 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).

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to make a contribution to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated.

Contributions can be sent to:
Juniata Meals-On-Wheels
P.O. Box 251
Mifflintown, PA 17059

ORGANIST NEEDED

If you, or anyone you know might be interested—Messiah has an immediate opening for Church Organist weekly services. Also includes Wednesday evening choir rehearsal, except for summer months. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard.

Candidates should call Diana Wise at 717-436-6629 evenings for more information, including salary. Possibilities



include either Full Time or Half Time employment. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmifflintown.org.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2015 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office.



POINSETTIAS

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.





REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

LOCUST GROVE

Jean McNaight (Cottage #5)
Ethel Bossinger Sis Stetler

BROOKLINE

Flo Beale Marian Gross
Dottie Smith Fay McCormick
Jane Marhefka
351 Village Blvd.
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(Ph: 436-5332)

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

Carol Simonton

NORTHRIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING, McALISTERVILLE

Dorothy Cleck

HONNEMAN HOUSE, THOMPSONTOWN

Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

ELMCROFT OF REEDSVILLE

Helen Knox

VILLAGE AT WILLOW LANE, MACUNGIE, PA

Lura Aughey
6488 Alburftis Road
Macungie, PA 18062
(Ph: 610-421-8100)

AT HOME

Reba Sigler Kitty Walters
Whitey & Mona Lawson

OTHERS OF CONCERN

Dorothy Patterson, Richfield Senior
Living Center (Cindy Van Gavree's
Mother)

Evelyn Spriggle, Brookline (Ann
Beaver's Mother)

Craig Walker
7016 Rt. 333
Mifflintown, PA 17059

GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED FOR FAMILY SUNDAY

Family Sunday is the first Sunday of each month, and the Youth and Children Committee is looking for children and their families to be Greeters prior to the church service on Family Sundays beginning with September 7th. The Greeters' responsibilities include welcoming parishioners, handing out bulletins, providing pins to visitors, and inviting visitors to sign the guest book and Friendship Pads. For those who sign-up, please be at the main entrance off Washington Avenue between 10:00 and 10:15 a.m. to start welcoming parishioners. In addition, we would ask the family acting as Greeters to also be Ushers for the service that Sunday.

The Ushers' responsibilities include collecting the offering and returning the offering to the Pastor during the Sung Offertory.

If your family is willing to act as Greeters and Ushers on any of the Family Sundays, please add your names to the sign-up sheet hanging next to the Altar Flower chart in the Sunday School Room. Thank you!

CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED

Messiah has a position opening for church treasurer. Requirements are: the position of church treasurer must be held by an adult member of the congregation. A knowledge in proper accounting procedures is preferred. The following are some but not all of the position duties of the church treasurer:

1. Recording the congregational receipts and disbursements.
2. Suggest improved methods and systems for financial record keeping.
3. Present a written financial report for Voters' Assembly meetings and PPC meetings.
4. Submit permanent financial records for an annual audit.
5. Pay salaries and bills as authorized by the congregation or Directors of Boards.
6. Coordinate the flow of monies from the treasury in a balanced manor.
7. Oversee the signing of all checks for payment of bills, salaries or other commitments of the congregation.

Any person interested in more information about this position may contact the church office in order to obtain a complete written job description. Further questions may be directed to PPC Executive Director, Kenneth Mummah or Pastor Esborn. Church office phone number is 436-6213, email address is messiahlutheran@pa.net.



FLOWER CHART

The 2015 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.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Children will be practicing for the Christmas program at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday through November and December.

We would like to have a few volunteers take an inventory of props, outfits, etc. as we prepare for the program. Speak with Christie Holderman and Stacie Kint regarding additional volunteer opportunities.



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE PASTOR

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).

2015 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2015 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 2014 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.



“THE NEEDLERS” CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

“The Needlers” Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 6, 2015.



CHURCH DECORATING

Decorating of the church for Christmas will be held on Sunday, November 30, 2014. 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

Hanging of the Greens Service will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 during the worship service.

This year it will be the Christmas Greens (Service of the Manger). Please bring a nativity figure from your manger at home for the service.



CHURCH CLEANING

Because our faithful cleaner, Dave Phelan, is recovering from heart surgery and will not be returning to clean for at least two months, we ask that members please be attentive to straightening up any area they are using and putting their kitchen garbage into the outside garbage cans.

This would be very helpful. Thank you.

Property Committee





THANK YOU

A special thank you to Betsy Long for donating all of the wreaths to decorate our doors for Christmas and to Diana Wise for making all of the bows for the wreaths.



WELCOME ONE AND ALL TO MESSIAH'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

When: Friday, December 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Messiah Fellowship Hall

Details: Meat & beverage will be provided. You may bring a side dish or dessert if you wish.

Deadline: **Please call** one of the following by **December 8th** so we have an approximate number.

Cynthia Smith: 436-8512

Jean Compton: 436-6079

Church Office: 436-6213



COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSALS

The final two Community Chorus Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday, December 9 and Monday, December 15 from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room.

This year's 18th annual Christmas Cantata performance "A LIGHT STILL SHINES" will be held Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium with live tableaux as an enhancement to the overall presentation.

Should weather conditions present a need to postpone the December 21st event (December 22nd and 23rd at 7:00 p.m. are available snow dates). A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 19th at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS auditorium.

IN HOME SERVICES OF CENTRAL PA

In Home Services of Central PA – Helping Senior Citizens in **providing a MULTITUDE of services** such as:

- Housekeeping
- Meal Preparation/Catering
- Laundry Services
- Running of Errands
- Grocery/Personal Shopping
- Companionship
- Personal Assistance
- Home Maintenance/Painting
- Technology/Computer Assistance
- Gardening
- Bookkeeping/Banking Assistance
- Insurance Billing/Benefits Research
- Pet Care
- Assistance with Holidays/Parties/Yard Sales

- Assistance with Making a Move/Downsizing
- Beautician/Barber Services
- Alterations/Mending
- Medical Set-up & Monitoring by Nurse
- Transportation To All Appointments

Let us be **YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT!** For more details, please call 888-881-2046. Serving Centre, Mifflin and Juniata Counties (LOCALLY OWNED). Check out our website: InHomeServicesofCentralPA.com.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

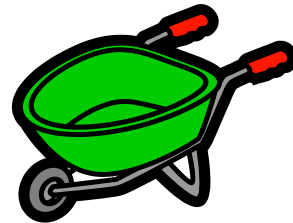
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Licking Creek will present the Christmas Cantata "Bethlehem's Child" on Sunday, December 14, 2014 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the church.

Everyone is invited. Please join us as we share the spirit of the season.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 7:00 PM, Family Youth Service
- 9:30 PM, Prelude Concert
- 10:00 PM, Candlelight/Communion Service



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.

HAVE A HAPPY & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS SEASON

We wish all of you a Christmas filled with blessings from God and His peace which passes all understanding.



**Mini Mountain Laurel
Concert Series
2014 – 2015**

Presented by
Orthey Instruments

In **cooperation** with the PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ARTS and host sites.

November 14/15, 2014 – Lindsay Haisley with Cheryl DeHut

January 9/10, 2015 – Walt Michael & Company

February 20/21, 2015 – Hello Stranger featuring Dale Carter Jett

March 20/21, 2015 – Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long

April 10/11, 2015 – Doofus

Friday night concerts are held at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lewistown, PA, 120 North Main Street, 7:30 p.m.

Autoharp workshops are held on the days of the Saturday concert at George Orthey's workshop, 18 Burd Road, Newport. They cost \$20 a person and require reservations. Workshop offered on Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at Orthey Instruments, 18 Burd Road, Newport, PA

Saturday night concerts are held at Highland United Presbyterian Church, 11 Church Road, Newport, PA, 7:30 p.m.

Call George Orthey at (717) 567-6406 (Workshop) or (717) 567-9469 (Home).

Email: gorthey@gmail.com

All concerts are free and open to the public.

A free will offering (\$10-\$20 per person suggested) is accepted at the door.

This Pennsylvania Partners in the arts Program is made possible through a regional partnership between Community Partnerships Resource Conservation and Development and the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.

Juniata County Food Pantry December Update

Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, Salvation Army and **YOU** to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. Working as a team and pooling our resources, we can reach more families in need and avoid duplicating services. But we can't do it without **your** help. The following foods are still being collected for Christmas meals. Our goal is to provide 800 meals: 400 for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS

TURKEYS OR TURKEY BREASTS; CRANBERRY SAUCE; STUFFING;
CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES; INSTANT MASHED POTATOES;
CANNED SWEET POTATOES; GRAVY MIX OR CANNED GRAVY;
CAKE MIX AND READY MADE ICING OR OTHER DESSERT MIX;
OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

Address: P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone #: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tuesday 9-12 & 1-5, Saturday 9-12

***Remember, our vestibule is open to receive non-perishable donations any hour, any day! Cash or gift card donations may be deposited through the mail slot inside the vestibule.**

Visit our **Website:** www.jcfoodpantry.com

Like us on **Face Book!**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATACOUNTY FOOD PANTRY. (CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH). Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com*

