

# 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  
Sam Leister  
Linda Leister & Christie Holderman

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAY December 25, 2011 – 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., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Laurie F., Mason B., Beth S., Denny K., Mark K., Kaye C., Stephanie M., Jesse K., Matt H., Sarah D., and Dorothy P.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP  
MEDITATION AND PRAYER  
PRELUDE

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
INTRODUCTION

*On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.*

### \* SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.*

**Parents: We present Blake Christian Pfeffer to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

*P Blake Christian Pfeffer do you desire to be baptized?*

**Parents: I do.**

*P In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.*

*Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?*

**Parents: Yes, by the help of God.**

*P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.*

*By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that they who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.*

*To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.*

**C Amen**

*P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.*

*Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?*

**Parents: Yes, by the help of God.**

*Do you believe in God the Father?*

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

*P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*

**C 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.**

*P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*

**C 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**

*P Blake Christian Pfeffer, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

*The Lord be with you.*

**C And also with you.**

*P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your Sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Blake: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.*

**C Amen**

*P Blake Christian Pfeffer child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

**Parents: Amen**

*Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

*P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C Amen**

*\* Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.*

**C We welcome Blake Christian Pfeffer into the Lord's family. We receive him as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

\* 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."**

\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.*

**C Amen**

*P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*P God of glory, God of peace,*

**C we confess that we have shunned the light that reveals the truth about us. We cling to worldly things rather than sharing the gifts of this earth. We trust ourselves above all. Save your people, O God; sustain the rivers and trees that sing your praise; and free us to live boldly in the light and truth of Jesus, our Savior. Amen**

*P The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in + Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope and joy.*

**C Amen**

**GATHERING**

\* ENTRANCE HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

p. 12 in bulletin

\* GREETING

*P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit 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.**

"Silent Night" (vs. 3)

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of re-deeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*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.**

- \* HYMN OF PRAISE (*to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*)
  - 1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
  - 2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
  - 3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

- \* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (**sung**)

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**spoken in unison**)

P *Let us pray...*

C **All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen**

## WORD

*The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until he reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord, a City Not Forsaken.*

### FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 62:6-12

### THE LESSON READS:

<sup>6</sup>Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest <sup>7</sup>and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. <sup>8</sup>The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; <sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who garner it shall drink it in my holy courts. <sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. <sup>11</sup>The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." <sup>12</sup>They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 97

Ps. – Intoned by Choir    Response – **Congregation** (below)

*O come, let us a – dore him, O come, let us a – dore him, O come, let us a – dore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice; let the multitude of the | isles be glad

<sup>2</sup>**Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations |  
of God's throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes be- | fore the LORD, burning up enemies on | every side.

<sup>4</sup>**Lightnings light | up the world; the earth | sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains | melt like wax before the Lord of | all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD, and all the peoples | see your glory. R**

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods! Bow down  
before the LORD, | all you Gods.

<sup>8</sup>**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice, because of your judg- | ments, O  
LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth; you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

<sup>10</sup>**You who love the | LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them  
from the hand | of the wicked. R**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns | for the righteous, and joy for the hon- | est of heart.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's | holy name. R**

*God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation  
who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from Titus 3:4-7

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not  
because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy,  
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us  
richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might  
become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

\* THE VERSE                      "Joy to the World" (vs. 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

\* GOSPEL: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

*P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.*

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>1</sup>[In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.]

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This was be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

p. 12 in bulletin

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*P Let us bring our prayers for the church, all creation, and the needs of the world before God.*

*A brief silence.*

*P God of might, send forth from your church messengers to bring good news and to announce your salvation, so all people may know the hope of eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P God of creation, enlighten your people to see new and creative ways to preserve and protect the environment, so all people may share in the gifts of the land. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P God of peace, raise up leaders throughout the earth committed to peace, so all people may live in safety. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P God of consolation, guard the unemployed, the homeless, the elderly, the young, and the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Laurie Funk, Mason Beward, Beth Smith, Denny King, Mark Krobath, Kaye Clark, Stephanie Minnick, Jesse Kint, Matt Hutchinson, and Sarah Dressler). Keep them in your care, that they may rejoice and give thanks to your name. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P God of Grace, show us your glory through the mystery of the Word made flesh, so all in our congregation may come to greater knowledge of your truth. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P God of salvation, we give you thanks for all who are made saints through the waters of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Sustain us in faith until the day we join with the praises of your holy people before the throne of your Son. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Rejoicing in your glory revealed to the world, we offer these and all our prayers to you, O God of our salvation, through Christ our light.*

**C Amen**

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].*

\* SUNG OFFERTORY "The First Noel" (verse 1)

*The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

\* OFFERING PRAYER

*P Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C Amen**



## MEAL

### \* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)

*P Let us give thanks to the Lord.*

**C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.**

*P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.*

**C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.**

*P Let us come to his table with joy,*

**C for we come as God's invited guests!**

### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.*

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both 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 The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.  
Come, eat, and live.*

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 Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.*

**C Amen**

**SENDING**

\* BLESSING

*P God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

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

\* CLOSING HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

p. 13 in bulletin

\* DISMISSAL

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

**C Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Bob St. Clair

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner

**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.

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 – Thomas a’Kempis (1380 – 1471), Priest, Monk, and Writer: “We must have love towards all, but familiarity with all is not expedient.”

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

CHURCH ORGANIST for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at [ebeaver41@yahoo.com](mailto:ebeaver41@yahoo.com) or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at [www.mlcmifflintown.org](http://www.mlcmifflintown.org).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

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 2012 FLOWER CHART has been placed in the Adult Sunday School Room. 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 2012 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick-up. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2011 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, December 11, 2011: \$1,100.00. This brings the total received to \$64,402.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

## **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, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

## **COMMUNITY**

CAKES FOR MEALS-ON-WHEELS! Volunteers are needed to bake or buy a cake one time a year for Meals-On-Wheels and deliver the cake to Westminster Presbyterian Church where the meals are prepared for delivery. You will be called only once a year to supply a cake. Please contact Pat Fisher at 436-9781 if you can help.

TO ALL CROP SUPPORTERS – By joining together, our county walkers and sponsors raised \$10,949.00 for CWS/CROP Walk this year. A great achievement!! Please mark **OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars for the 2012 CROP Walk. We hope to see all of you again. Also, if anyone is missing a pink scarf, it was left at the walk. We have not been able to find an owner. If it belongs to you, please contact Becky at 463-2309. Thanks again for your faithful support!

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

THANK YOU: "Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church....On behalf of Wings of Kindness, I would like to thank you for your generous donation. It is very much appreciated! Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue caring for the kids of the Juniata Valley. Since its inception in 2002, The Wings of Kindness Foundation has been providing financial assistance to children and organizations that assist in meeting the needs of young people in the Juniata River Valley. This is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like you. May the Lord's blessings be upon you this Christmas season and throughout the coming year."

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Pannebaker, Treasurer  
Wings of Kindness Foundation

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be holding the following local blood drives:

Friday, December 30, 2011  
12:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Fayette Area Lions Den  
McAlisterville, PA

Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Port Royal Community Building  
Port Royal, PA

Saturday, January 14, 2012  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Tuscarora Elementary School  
Port Royal, PA

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID or two other forms of identification to the donor site. To schedule an appointment call 1-800 Red Cross.

NURSE'S NOTES – **Beginning today**, set aside at least 10 minutes to just sit, take deep cleansing breaths, and listen...for as Elijah discovered, God was not in the wind...the earthquake...the fire...but in the "sound of sheer silence." May his whisper flow over and around you as we celebrate the birth of his son...Emmanuel...God with us!

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.  
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., N/A meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.