

# 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  
Barbara S. Geedey  
Barbara S. Geedey & Sandy Pines  
Marina Holderman  
Malin Kint & Emma Arentz

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild  
Crucifer  
Acolytes

## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

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

### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

**SHUT-INS:** Marian G., Reba S., Kitty W., Flo B., Ethel B., Jean M., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B.

**OTHERS:** Sarah S., Rick W., Avonel W., Jesse K., Jim W., Ed F., Jackie A., Sara Ann A., Heidi W., Layton J., Allison S., Miriam B., Charlene A., Kelly Y., Dave P., Ralph G., Dottie S., Doug W., Nancy P., Ellie R., Grace M., Luella & Jim M., Bob G., Ray B., Shirley & Denton R., Bill C., Marti G., Brian A., John & Sheila S., Barbara M., Wendy G. and family.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

*In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** – *This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.*

#### \* 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 Bryson Lynn Pfeffer to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

*P Bryson Lynn 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 he who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of this child who is cleansed by this water and bring him forth as an inheritor 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.**

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

**Parents: Amen**

*P 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**

\* *P 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 Bryson Lynn 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 come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*P God peace,*

**C we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen**

*P In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.*

**C Amen**

**GATHERING**

\* ENTRANCE HYMN "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

\* 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.*

"Away in a Manger" (verse 1)

A – way in a man – ger, no crib for his bed,  
the lit – tle Lord Je – sus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the lit – tle Lord Je – sus a – sleep on the hay.

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 (**spoken**)

P *The Lord be with you*      **C And also with you.**

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

P *Let us pray...*

**C Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**WORD**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 61:10—62:3

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name

that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148

Ps. – Intoned by Choir Response – **Sung by Congregation**

O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.

**<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars.

**<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,

**<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;

**<sup>10</sup>wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world;

**<sup>12</sup>young | men and maidens, old and | young together. R**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

**<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from Galatians 4:4-7

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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.

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

\* GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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

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

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*P Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.*

*A brief silence.*

*P Blessed are you, O God, for the salvation revealed in the face of Christ. Reveal the glory of your loving presence in our congregation and fill our hearts with songs of your praise. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Blessed are you for the earth that bring forth new life in due season. Blessed are you for sun and moon, snow and fog, mountains and hills, creeping things and flying birds. Thank you for them all. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Blessed are you for the hope you send among the nations. Stir leaders to act with righteousness and peace, that nations will see your glory. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Blessed are you for coming to us in our weakness. Shower healing and hope on all for whom the future seems to hold more threat than promise, the discouraged, the weary, and the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Dorothy Patterson, Sarah Shellenberger, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jesse Kint, Jim Woltman, Ed Forney, Jackie Abate, Jean McNaight, Sara Ann Aurand, Heidi Woltman, Layton Jury, Allison Saner, Miriam Sowers Bolton, Charlene Aughey, Kelly Yorks, Dave Phelan, Ralph Goss, Dottie Smith, Doug Wagner, Nancy Peters, Ellie Ritzman, Grace Miller, Jim & Luella McLaughlin, Bob Gill, Ray Baker, Shirley and Denton Ritzman, Bill Crimm, Fay McCormick, Marti Geise, Brian Arentz, John & Sheila Sprenkle, Barbara Maxton, and Wendy Goss & family). Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Blessed are you for the children in our midst. Raise up for them faithful families, mentors, guides, and teachers, and make them joyous, healthy, and kind. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P Blessed are you for the saints. (Especially today we remember the innocent children killed in Bethlehem after Jesus' birth). Keep us in communion with them until we receive our inheritance with them in light. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of you Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior.*

**C Amen.**

OFFERING  
OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

*[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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verse 1)

O lit – tle town of Beth – le – hem, how still we see thee lie!

A – bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si – lent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shin – eth the ev – er – last – ing light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to – night.

\* 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, giv-

ing 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 mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.*

*(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 We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C Amen**

**SENDING**

\* BLESSING

*P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.*

*May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.*

*May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.*

*And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.*

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

\* CLOSING HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High"

\* DISMISSAL

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

**C Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner (cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

### **WELCOME**

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the yellow portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also in the guest book provided in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Wendy Goss and family on the death of her husband, Ralph E. Goss, Jr., who died on December 22, 2014 at his home. Please keep Wendy and family in your prayers.

GOD CREATES A NEW SAINT TODAY through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We welcome Bryson Lynn Pfeffer, son of Christian and Alycia (Leister) Pfeffer.

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 – Charlotte Perkins Gilman, American writer and Social Reformer (1860 – 1935): Eternity is not something that begins after you are dead. It is going on all the time. We are in it now.

### **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.

THE 2015 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES will soon be available for you to pick-up in the Adult Sunday School Room. 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.

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](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net).

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. 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 Adult Sunday School Room Thank you!

MESSIAH WILL BE HOSTING Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mt. Luther, on Sunday, February 8, 2015. This will also be Messiah Youth Sunday for 2015. The youth will be helping throughout the service and will also provide the anthem that day. They will be singing a few songs from VBS and maybe a few Camp Mt. Luther songs with the help of Chad and our Mt. Luther campers. If your campers have favorites, please let Kate Swailes know. If your child would like to write a letter about their camp experience or share their experience on February 8<sup>th</sup>, again, contact Kate Swailes.

THANK YOU to all who gave donations to help Camp Mt. Luther. A total of \$1,638.60 was collected this month which will be matched by the anonymous donor.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – 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.

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.

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.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who assisted with the Children's Christmas Program this year. The kids did a great job and many folks enjoyed it based on comments made.

### **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.

SEAFARERS PROJECT – Women of the ELCA are collecting items for the Seafarers Project. Items needed are: sweatshirts (preferably hooded sizes L-XL), thermal or white gym socks (no dress socks), casual pull-over T-shirts sizes M-L, and heavy knit winter caps. Please place items on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women are invited to attend.

### **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).

## FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

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

### **DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!**

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.**

Contact person: Kathy Queitzsch

Email: [jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com](mailto:jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com)

Visit our **Website**: [www.jcfoodpantry.com](http://www.jcfoodpantry.com)

Like us on **Face Book!**

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.