

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
Barbara S. Geedey
Barbara S. Geedey & Pat Fisher

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING December 29, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

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

OTHERS: Tammy W., Audrey L., Josh B., Karl and Margaret G., Darlene Y., Arielle D., Sarah S., Troy B., Riley C., Esther L., Rick V., Michael S., Trent P., Charlene A., Wendy S., Gretchen W., Jack S., Todd E., Kim S., Cindy V., Jo-Anne B., Linda R., Connor L., Matt H., Luke, Amber & family, Shirley B., Chris A., Rick W., Avonel W., Clark S., Bob S., family & friends of Brian Marshall.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

* 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

“What Child Is This”

* 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 **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

WORD

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 63:7-9

THE LESSON READS:

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

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

⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

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

6who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

R

7Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;

8fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

9mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;

10wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;

11sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world;

12young | men and maidens, old and | young together. R

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

14The 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

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

SECOND READING

A reading from Hebrews 2:10-18

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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.

Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

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

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P In joy and wonder, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Shine your favor on your people, and uphold us with the abundance of your steadfast love. Send us out from our assembly, trusting in your presence, to announce your gracious deeds. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Fill all who hunger with your gracious provision. Establish justice in the ways that food is grown and distributed. Work through agencies, such as the World Hunger Appeal, to feed all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Make your ways known to all the nations. Join all people together, young and old, rich and poor, in order to work your righteous acts among them. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Ease the suffering of all who live with chronic illness, addiction, or distress (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Tammy Walton, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, Karl and Margaret Guss, Darlene Yutzy, Arielle Dougherty, Sarah Shellenberger, Troy Burd, Riley Cooper, Esther Long, Rick Varner, Michael Slagle, Trent Phillips, Charlene Aughey, Wendy Swartz, Gretchen Wray, Jack Stutts, Todd Eby, Kim Shearer, Cindy Van Gavree, Jo-Anne Brooks, Linda Rhine, Connor Lauver, Jean McNaight, Helen Knox, Matt Hutchinson, Marian Gross, Luke, Amber & family, Shirley Beitz, Chris Albright, Rick Waller, Jr., Avonel Waller, Clark Shirk, Bob St. Clair, Sr., and family and friends of Brian Marshall). Surround them with family and friends who bring assurance of your compassion and care. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Draw near to all children, the sisters and brothers of Jesus. Free the young and vulnerable ones who are in the chains of abuse, poverty, or neglect. Give them abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Remembering your covenant that draws the saints into one community, join our voices with theirs in praise of all the good things you do for your people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

THE RITE OF HEALING

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come forward to the altar rail. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse, or health care worker.

P Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. We give you thanks for this oil, for the fruit of the trees, nurtured in the warmth of the sun, watered from the rain of the heavens, the olives harvested, and oil pressed from the fruit of the trees. With oil, you anointed your chosen people Israel, and fed them with choice flour, oil, and honey. You anointed Aaron and made oil a sign of blessing for your chosen ones. You promised to anoint with oil those who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. You have anointed your own Son with the oil of gladness. The Good Samaritan tended a stranger, bound up his wounds, and poured oil on them. You gave the disciples power to heal, to cure, and to anoint with oil many who were sick. Your own body was anointed for burial by the woman who poured expensive ointment on his feet and wiped them with her hair. The virgins met the bridegroom and trimmed their oil lamps to burn brightly for the celebration, the feast to come.

(Then for each individual the following is said with the laying on of hands):

P I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.

C Amen

P (Name), I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

*** PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)**

P The almighty Lord a stronger tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey--be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P Let us pray.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through 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

"Bethlehem Wind"

Joseph M. Martin

* 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, 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 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 “ ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

* 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 – Diana Wise (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.

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 – Joseph Addison, English Essayist and Poet (1672 – 1719): There is no virtue so great as justice.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net. If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

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

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

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

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

THE 2014 FLOWER CHART is now 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 2014 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available in the back of the Adult Sunday School Room (in numerical order). Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2013 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 22, 2014 if you would like your child to attend. Date and time for the class will be arranged with parents.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held this winter. If you wish to attend, please let the church office know by January 17, 2014.

THE JANUARY 2014 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and are not already on the list, please send your email address to stclairb@embarqmail.com.

PATIENCE NEEDED – Our Messiah bulletin board is in a poor state of repair and has been for some time. We seriously need to consider a replacement as moisture continues to cause damage to the board and the letters. In the coming months the Property Committee will research various options. Meanwhile we will try to make sure the old bulletin board has the church's pertinent information until a change can be made. Please be patient as we resolve this ongoing issue. Your input is welcome. Stay tuned.....

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.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209, or Cynthia Smith at 436-8512.

THANK YOU – My sincere thanks to members and friends of Messiah for the monetary Christmas gift given to me. It was very much appreciated.

Judy Armstrong

THANK YOU to the Junior Church kids, Andrea Cameron, and my family at Messiah for the wonderful Christmas gifts this year. They all came at the absolute perfect time and gave me the "pick-me-up" that I needed for myself and for my family. Also, thanks to everyone for prayers for my father who has recently gone through some major health problems this holiday season. It all has meant so much to me to have friends like everyone here to lean on and talk to. God Bless each and every one of you this holiday season!

Bob St. Clair

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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).

NEW 2014 CROP COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED – The coordinators duties include securing a site to hold the walk, distribute materials to churches and walkers, advertise, prepare the site for the walk, organize volunteers to receive walker forms and count money, file reports with Church World Services, and thank the churches for their participation. A notebook is available with step by step instructions on how to run a successful CROP Walk and includes a thumb drive with files. One or more people are needed who have a passion for humber ministries (and the CROP Walk in particular), are self-starters, and are good at organizing and following through on projects. If you are interested in the job, or would like to suggest someone, please contact Graham Fowler at pastor.lostcreekpres@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.