

# 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  
Linda Clark  
Robert St. Clair  
Sam Leister & Jim Bahorik  
Linda Clark  
Ken, Tawny, Harrison, Haley & Olivia Mummah  
Tai Kepler  
Jared Hutchinson & Gavin Kint

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Junior Choir Director  
Organist  
Readers  
Altar Guild  
Greeters & Ushers  
Crucifer  
Acolytes

\*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS GREENS SERVICE December 7, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

### 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., Sarah D., 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 M., Bob G., Ray B., Shirley & Denton R.

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP  
MEDITATION AND PRAYER

PRELUDE "Fling Wide the Door"

H. Balcombe

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vss. 1 & 5)

O come, O come, Em – man - u – el,  
and ran – som cap – tive Is - ra – el,  
that mourns in lone – ly ex - ile here  
un – til the Son of God ap – pear.

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

O come, O Key of Da – vid come,  
and o – pen wide our heav’nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to mis – ery. Refrain

*P We thank God for the joy that surrounds us in this place, and we ask God’s blessing as we prepare for the holy season of Christmas.*

**C I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” (Psalm 122:1)**

*P As we prepare the church for Christmas, let us prepare our hearts to receive Jesus, our Savior and Friend.*

*Gracious God, we thank you for the coming of Jesus long ago in Bethlehem, for his willingness to become like us, to live with us, to die for us, and to come to live with us again. Make us ready to open our lives to his coming every day.*

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P Help us to remember the gifts of Jesus’ coming: how he fed the hungry, healed the sick, and freed us from fear. Free us now to do his work.*

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P You have promised to plant a tree by the riverside, a tree with roots deep in the soil of your love: Help us to grow and become strong and beautiful for you.*

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P Make our homes bright with the joy of your presence and our churches alive with glad songs of praise for your coming. Give us faces that shine with your light for the world to see.*

**C Come, Lord Jesus. Amen**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them”

G. F. Handel

ANTHEM

“Come To Us, Little King” “The Savior of the World”

Junior Choir

CAROL

“Joy to the World” (vss. 1 & 2)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth re – ceive her king;  
let ev – ‘ry heart pre – pare him room  
and heav’n and na – ture sing,  
and heav’n and na – ture sing,  
and heav’n and heav’n and na – ture sing.

Joy to the earth, the Sav – ior reigns!  
Let all their songs em – ploy,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
re – peat the sound – ing joy,  
re – peat the sound – ing joy,  
re – peat, re – peat the sound – ing joy.

(Congregation may bring their characters of the nativity forward and place them on the table in the front of the sanctuary)

*P The evergreens are “old friends” of Christmas. They bring symbols of life to our church and homes, which calls to mind the life God gives us through the Savior, Jesus. With that life they bring beauty, fragrance and joy, and that truly is what Jesus brings to us with his life when we have him in our lives.*

(Basket of greens brought forward and placed in front of the altar)

CAROL

“O Christmas Greens”

O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,  
how faithful are your branches!  
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,  
how faithful are your branches.  
So green when summer breezes blow;  
still green amid the winter snow.  
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,  
how faithful are your branches.

O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,  
O leaves of green, unchanging,  
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,  
O leaves of green, unchanging.  
Since evergreen you stand, we know  
God doth eternal life bestow.  
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,  
O leaves of green, unchanging.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 41:19-20

Jim Bahorik

<sup>19</sup>I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, <sup>20</sup>so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-5

Sam Leister

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of

Syria). <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

(Mary and Joseph and donkey brought forward and placed in crèches)

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vss. 1 & 2)

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 the dark streets shin – eth the ev – er – last – ing light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to – night.

For Christ is born of Mar – y, and, gath – ered all a – bove  
while mor – tals sleep, the an – gels keep their watch of won-d’ring love.  
O morn – ing stars, to – geth – er pro – claim the ho – ly birth,  
and prais – es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:6-7

Jim Bahorik

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

(Baby Jesus is brought forward and placed in the manger)

CAROL "What Child is This" (vss. 1 & 3)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mar – y’s lap is sleep – ing?  
Whom an – gels greet with an – thems sweet  
while shep – herds watch are keep – ing?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shep – herds guard and an – gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laude,  
the babe, the son of Mar – y!

So bring him in – cense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peas – ant, king to own him.  
The King of kings sal – va – tion brings;  
let lov – ing hearts en – throne him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the vir – gin sings her lul – la – by;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mar – y!

SCR8IPTURE: Luke 2:7b

Sam Leister

<sup>7b</sup>She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(Bring stable animals forward and place in crèches)

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

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.

The cat – tle are low – ing; the ba – by a – wakes,  
but lit – tle Lord Je – sus, no cry – ing he makes.  
I love you, Lord Je – sus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cra – dle till morn – ing is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Je – sus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for – ev – er and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear chil – dren in your ten – der care  
and fit us for heav – en to live with you there.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8

Jim Bahorik

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

(Bring shepherds and sheep forward)

CAROL

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” (vss. 1 & 5))

While shep – herds watch’d their flocks by night,  
All seat – ed on the ground,  
The an – gel of the Lord came down,  
And glo – ry shone a – round,  
And glo – ry shone a – round.

All glo – ry be to God on high,  
And to earth be peace:  
Good will hense-forth from heav’n to men  
Be – gin and nev – er cease!  
Be – gin and nev – er cease!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:9-14

Sam Leister

<sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

(Bring angels forward)

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

An – gels we have heard on high,  
sweet-ly sing – ing o’er the plains,  
and the moun – tains in re – ply,  
ech – o – ing their joy – ous strains.

*Refrain:* Glo - - - - ri – a  
in ex – cel – sis De – o;  
Glo - - - - ri – a  
in ex – cel – sis De - o.

Shep – herds, why this ju – bi – lee?  
why your joy – ous strains pro – long?  
What the glad – some tid – ings be  
which in – spire your heav’n – ly song? *Refrain*

Come to Beth – le – hem and see  
him whose birth the an – gels sing;  
come, a – dore on bend – ed knee  
Christ the Lord, the new – born king. *Refrain*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-16

Jim Bahorik

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

CAROL

“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”

p. 17 in bulletin

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:17-20

Sam Leister

<sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HOMILY

Pastor Esborn

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-11

Jim Bahorik

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>” ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’ “ <sup>7</sup>Then Herod

called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

(Bring wise men forward)

CAROL "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vss. 1 & 5)

We three kings of O – ri – ent are;  
bear – ing gifts we trav – erse a – far,  
field and foun – tain, moor and moun – tain,  
fol – low – ing yon – der star. *Refrain*

Glo – rious now be – hold Him a – rise,  
King and God and Sac – ri – fice,  
heav'n sings al – le – lu – ia:  
al – le – lu – ia the earth re – plies. *Refrain*

*Refrain:* Oh, star of won – der, star of night,  
star with roy – al beauty bright;  
west – ward lead – ing, still pro – ceed – ing,  
guide us to thy per – fect light!

#### BLESSING OF THE CRECHE CHARACTERS

*P Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Bring the life of your living Word to these humble figures. May the story of your grace come to life in them as we return to our homes. May we be blessed with your presence in our hearts and lives, loving you above all things and loving our neighbors as ourselves in this holy season, now and forever.*

**C Amen**

\* HYMN

"The King Shall Come"

p. 18 in bulletin

#### **MEAL**

\* ADVENT DIALOG

*P We have come with great expectation to meet the coming Messiah.*

**C All creation waits with longing for the Son of God.**

*P As John the Baptist cried in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord."*

**C We prepare a place in our hearts and in the world for his coming.**

*P O come to us, Emmanuel!*

**C God, be with us and save us from our sins.**

\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.*

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.*

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

*P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.*

**C Amen**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

**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 Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.*

*(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

“Be Comforted My People”

L. Smith

*[“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 Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**C Amen**

\* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

*P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord’s Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

**C Amen**

\* 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)**

\* DISMISSAL

*P: Go in peace. Remember the poor. C: Thanks be to God!*

\* POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Linda Leister

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister

NEXT WEEK’S CRUCIFER – Jared Hutchinson

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Tai Kepler & Nate Swailes

**WELCOME**

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

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also in the guest book provided in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus

Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

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

JUST A THOUGHT – J. I. Packer, Canadian Christian Theologian (b. 1926): There is nothing irrational about believing that God who make the world can still intrude creatively into it.

### **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.

CHILDREN' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – Children will be practicing for the Christmas program at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday through December 14. We would like to have a few volunteers take an inventory of props, outfits, etc. as we prepare for the program. Speak with Christie Holderman and Stacie Kint regarding additional volunteer opportunities.

ORGANIST NEEDED – If you, or anyone you know might be interested—Messiah has an immediate opening for Church Organist weekly services. Also includes Wednesday evening choir rehearsal, except for summer months. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should call Diana Wise at 717-436-6629 evenings for more information, including salary. Possibilities include either Full Time or Half Time employment. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at [www.mlcmifflintown.org](http://www.mlcmifflintown.org).

WELCOME ONE AND ALL to Messiah's Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meat and beverage will be provided. You

may bring a side dish or dessert if you wish. **Please call** one of the following by **December 8<sup>th</sup>** so we have an approximate number. Cynthia Smith: 436-8512, Jean Compton: 436-6079 or the church office: 436-6213.

"THE NEEDLERS" CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

AGAIN THIS YEAR, the congregation is collecting a monetary Christmas gift for the pastor. If you wish to contribute, you may do so during Advent or Christmas Eve by putting your gift in the special box in the Adult Sunday School Room, or in the offering plate (designated 'Pastor's Christmas Gift'), or to the church office any weekday. (Please make checks payable to the pastor).

THE 2015 FLOWER CHART will be in the Adult Sunday School Room by the end of December. If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come-first-served basis.

THE 2015 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick up later in December. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2014 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE 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.

CHURCH TREASURER NEED – 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).

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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!

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.

POINSETTIAS to decorate the church for Christmas may be placed in honor or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. The cost is \$8.00 for a 6½" plant with 3 to 4 blooms. You may order by calling the church office at 436-6213.

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. Cans will be delivered to Bethesda Mission later in December.

CHALLENGE GRANT ISSUED TO HELP CAMP MT. LUTHER – Due to financial concerns, the camp's Executive Committee took action to furlough the Executive Director one day per week without pay, effective the last quarter of 2014. This action results in a small cost savings for the camp, as the board tries to close a projected budget deficit for 2014. In the past month, that projected deficit has been reduced from \$57,000 to \$39,000. The deficit is due to smaller income than anticipated. In the last couple of years, the camp has seen a decrease in income from traditional revenue streams. That trend is expected to continue. As news of the current financial state was shared, many camp supporters have taken action. All gifts were appreciated that have been received in the past month, particularly those that came as a result of the annual appeal letter. In addition, an anonymous donor has issued a challenge to other camp supporters. During the months of November and

December, all gifts to the camp up to \$25,000 will be matched by this donor—this means for every dollar donated to Camp Mt. Luther in November and December, the camp will receive \$2! For 51 years, this ministry has been supported by individuals, families, and congregations in Central PA. This latest gift in the form of a challenge is just another way that reminds us of the important work that is done at the camp. Please consider giving a financial contribution before the end of this year to help meet the \$25,000 challenge!

### **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 Christmas Program will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. There will be no business meeting. Everyone is asked to bring something to read or share with the group and a snack, cookie, bread, etc. for refreshments. Barb Geedey will provide the beverage.

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.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 7 children this year for the Christmas Angel Project. A poster with the information is on the bulletin board in the kitchenette. Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the child's name and family number, and returned to the Adult Sunday School Room by **TODAY.**

### **COMMUNITY**

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer drivers, cooks and people to help assemble meals. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

THE FINAL TWO COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSALS will be held on Tuesday, December 9 and Monday, December 15 from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room. This year's 18<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Cantata performance "A LIGHT STILL SHINES" will be held Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium with live tableaux as an enhancement to the overall presentation. Should weather conditions present a need to postpone the December 21<sup>st</sup> event (December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. are available snow dates). A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS auditorium.

A DIVORCE CARE support group for persons who are divorced or separated is being offered at Free Spring Church of the Brethren, 670 Free Spring Church Road, Mifflintown beginning on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for 13 weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Eichman at 717-513-2455 or [jimeichman1@yahoo.com](mailto:jimeichman1@yahoo.com).

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Licking Creek will present the Christmas Cantata "Bethlehem's Child" on Sunday, December 14, 2014 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the church. Everyone is invited. Please join us as we share the spirit of the season.

### **JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER UPDATE**

Bravo! With your help we were able to supply 376 Thanksgiving meals to our Juniata County neighbors in need! In three weeks we're going to do it all again as we attempt to provide up to 400 Juniata County families with a Christmas meal.

The Food Pantry served 377 families in November – 1081 individuals. Many thanks to Bunkertown Brethren in Christ Church for providing volunteers for October, and St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for November's volunteers.

#### **FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**

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

#### **HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**

TURKEYS, HAMS, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES,  
GRAVY MIX, CAKE MIX AND READY-MADE ICING

### **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., Hanging of the Greens Service/Communion.  
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.  
-1-6 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.  
-12:00 noon, "The Needlers" Christmas Lunch in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA Christmas Program in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -6 p.m., Messiah's Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.  
-3 p.m., Christmas Cantata at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.  
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.