

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Brent Snyder
Andrea Cameron
Lay Assistant
Linda Leister

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Sam Leister
Altar Guild

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Hanging of the Greens Service (Chrismons) December 8, 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., Allen H., Esther L., Rick V., Michael S., Trent P., Charlene A., Wendy S., Gretchen W., Tryon B., Jack S., Todd E., Kim S., Cindy V., Gary C., Jo-Anne B., Linda R., Connor L., Matt H., Luke, Amber & family

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our life, our mercy, our might.

C Amen

P As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Great and Holy One,

C in this time of waning daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We build ourselves up at the expense of others. We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure. Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay. Come to restore us in your image, remake us into your people, and rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen

P Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

C Amen

* OPENING HYMN "The King Shall Come"

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

P Let us pray...

C Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

HEART

HYMN - "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vs. 1)

Of the Fa – ther's love be – got – ten
ere the worlds be – gan to be,
he is Al – pha and O – me – ga,
he the source, the end – ing he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that fu – ture years shall see,
ev – er – more and ev – er – more.

The heart is a universal symbol of love. Our hearts beat within us each with its own rhythm, sometimes fickle and uneven. God's love, however, is steadfast and always faithful to his word.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Pastor – Eternal Father, you have held us and all of creation in your constant love. You feed us with the product of the field and vine, clothe us and shelter us against the elements and deliver us by your grace, may your Holy Spirit dwell in us that our hearts may be one with yours. Amen

NINE POINT STAR

HYMN – "The First Noel" (vss. 1 & 2)

The first No – el the an – gel did say
was to cer – tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keep – ing their sheep,
on a cold win – ter's night that was so deep.

They look – ed up and saw a star
shin – ing in the east be – yond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it con – tin – ued both day and night.

Refrain

No – el, No – el, No – el, No – el!
Born is the King of Is – ra – el.

Known as, 'The Fruit of the Spirit Star,' each of the points represent one of the nine attributes of the fruit of the Spirit found in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. For those who live guided by and within the love of God these fruits grow as naturally as grapes on a vine. These fruits build up the community of faith and our relationship with our neighbor. The Christmas story gathers divergent people together, Mary and Joseph, shepherds and Wisemen, beast and angels into the story of His love and the heavenly light of a star.

"The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

Pastor – Gracious Father as you have held us in the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, may we, filled with your Spirit, learn to live in love and community with each other. May we constantly bear your gifts in our lives, caring for neighbor and creation. Amen

ANGEL HYMN – "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (vs. 1)
An – gels, from the realms of glo – ry.
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang cre – a – tion's sto – ry;
now pro – claim Mes – si – ah's birth.

Refrain

Come and wor – ship, come and wor – ship,
wor – ship Christ, the new – born king.

Angel's are the messengers of God. Each time we read of angels in scripture they are involved in the story of salvation history. Their work is revealing or guiding some new way in which the story of God's love and grace moves us towards the cross of Christ and God's ultimate act of love. The angels in the Christmas story announce to us the arrival of our Savior in the child of Bethlehem.

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" Hebrews 1:14

Pastor – Almighty God, Lord of all creation and to who even the angels bow, lead us by your light into the darkness of the world that we like the angels may be messengers of your Holy Word. Send us bearing the light of the Gospel to those who need to hear the promise of your love. Amen

SHEPHERD'S CROOK HYMN – "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (vss. 1 & 2)
Si – lent night, ho – ly night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon vir – gin moth – er and child,
Ho – ly in – fant, so ten – der and mild,
sleep in heav – en – ly peace,
sleep in heav – en – ly peace.

Si – lent night, ho – ly night!
Shep-herds quake at the sight;
glo – ries stream from heav – en a – far,
heav'n – ly hosts sing, Al – le – lu – ia!
Christ, the Sav – ior is born!
Christ, the Sav – ior is born!

The Shepherds crook is a symbol of the care of God for his people. At times the crook could be used to prod the sheep along and at others it could be used to help pull a sheep or lamb to safety. God continues to guide us with his Word both Law and Gospel, sometimes prodding us to repentance and in others proclaiming to us the life changing grace of the Gospel.

“The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep....I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” John 10:2, 11, 14

Pastor – Holy shepherd, reveal to us the ways in which we wander from your will and in steadfast love for us rescue us from ourselves, our sin and the world. Amen

DOVE OF PEACE HYMN – “Away in a Manger” (vss. 1 & 3)
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.

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.

Traditionally the dove represents peace, and is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. All four gospels report this presence of the Holy Spirit in a dove at the baptism of Jesus.

“...the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. John 14:26-27

Pastor – Holy Spirit of God fill our hearts with your eternal peace in this season. When life is filled with strife and struggle guide us into peace and reconciliation with those we have been in conflict, in our lives, in our community and in the world. Amen

FISH HYMN – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs. 1)
Good Chris-tian friends, re – joice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say;
Je – sus Christ is born to – day;

ox and ass be – fore him bow,
and he is in the man – ger now.
Christ is born to – day!
Christ is born to – day!

ICHTHUS is the Greek acrostic for, “Jesus Christ Son of God, Savior,” and was also the Greek word for fish. Persecuted Christians of the early church used the fish symbol as a secret sign to identify one another. A person would draw half the fish in the sand, and another would complete the drawing to identify him or herself as a fellow believer.

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.” Matthew 4:19-20

Pastor – Gracious and merciful God, we remember those who are persecuted and for whom faith is still dangerous around the world. Keep us and all your children faithful in the struggles of life and when we are weak and fearful strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may not fall away from your gifts of faith and hope. Amen

CROSS HYMN – “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (vss. 1 & 4)

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom – ing
from ten – der stem hath sprung!
Of Jes – se's lin – eage com – ing
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
a – mid the cold of win – ter,
when half – spent was the night.

O Sav – ior, child of Mar – y,
who felt our hu – man woe;
O Sav – ior, king of glo – ry,
who dost our weak – ness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heav – en
and in – to end – less day.

The ever present reminder of the price that Jesus paid for our sins. Jesus paid the debt that we owe to the Father. He in turn gives us the free gift of new life.

The Latin Cross is shown here and is the most widely used cross design.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...” Hebrews 12:2

Pastor – Eternal Father, strong to save, the cross of Christ is ever before us, even in the birth of the Christ child we remember that he leads us to the cross. Forgive us our sins and keep us ever mindful of the sacrifice that you have paid for us in the birth, death and resurrection of your Son, our Savior. Amen

CROWN

HYMN – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (vss. 1 & 3)

Hark! The her – ald an – gels sing,
“Glo – ry to the new – born king;
peace on earth, and mer – cy mild,
God and sin – ners rec – on – ciled.”
Joy – full, all you na – tions rise;
join the tri – umph of the skies;
with an – gel – ic hosts pro-claim,
“Christ is born in Beth – le – hem!”

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with heal – ing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glo – ry by,
born that we no more may die.
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us sec – ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her – ald an – gels sing,
“Glo – ry to the new – born king!”

The crown represents the majesty and royalty of Christ. God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. This crown is composed of three triangles representing the Trinity. The three circles represent the eternal nature of the Trinity.

“...They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.” Revelation 4:10

*Pastor – Lord of all creation, you are the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, you entered into your creation as a vulnerable child and accepted dependence on Mary and Joseph, may you rule in our hearts and lead us to protect every child, securing for them all that is necessary for life; food, shelter, health and above all the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Amen*

SERMON

Sam Leister

- * HYMN “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” (vss. 1 & 3)
- * APOSTLES' CREED (all)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried' he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

- * THE VERSE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 2)
 O come, O Wis – dom from on high, em – brac – ing all things far and nigh:
 In strength and beau – ty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
- Refrain*
 Re-joice! Re-joice! Em – man – u – el shall come to you, O Is – ra – el.
- * PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
- P In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.*
- A brief silence.*
- P Renew us in the covenant of your Son, O Holy One, and revive us by the outpouring of your Spirit, who leads us to wisdom, understanding, and faithfulness in you. Hear us, O God.*
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Establish harmony in all creation, that all living things may work according to your loving and generous purpose. Fill the earth with your goodness and glory. Hear us, O god.*
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Send your Spirit to those who hold power and authority among the nations. Lead them to tend to those who are poor and meek with your righteousness and justice. Hear us, O god.*
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P By your word and your people encourage and give heart to those who have lost hope in the face of depression, disease, and death (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, Allen Hall Esther Long, Rick Varner, Michael Slagle, Trent Phillips, Charlene Aughey, Wendy Swartz, Gretchen Wray, Tryon Benner, Jack Stutts, Todd Eby, Kim Shearer, Cindy Van Gavree, Gary Comp, Jo-Anne Brooks, Linda Rhine, Connor Lauver, Jean McNaight, Helen Knox, Matt Hutchinson, Marian Gross, and Luke, Amber and family). Give them faith in your promises. Hear us, O God.*
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Shape this faith community into a place of welcome and support for all people. Feed and strengthen us by your gifts of grace, that we may share them with others. Hear us, O God.*
- C Your mercy is great.**
- Here other intercessions may be offered.*
- P You have gathered the saints into your holy and eternal presence. Make us steadfast in the faith until we are all made one in your new creation. 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

* 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

* SUNG OFFERTORY "Let All Together Praise Our God" (revised wording)

Let all to – geth – er praise our God Be – fore his glo – rious throne;

For he will o – pen heav'n a – bove To give us his own Son, To give us his own Son.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* 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)**

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 Come to the table where Christ comes to make a home in you.

(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 God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* BLESSING

*P The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, +
bless you now and forever.*

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

* CLOSING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister

WELCOME

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

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

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Don and Barb Geedey and Velma Suloff.

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 – Francis August Scheaffer, Christian Thinker: Man still stands in the image of God – twisted, broken, abnormal, but still the image bearer of God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at diskint@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 diskint@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.

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).

ATTENTION ALL KIDS! – We will begin reading through the Christmas program in preparation for the Sunday School performance on December 22, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Please join us each Sunday in November and December during Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. in the church basement to read parts, sing songs, and celebrate the Birth of Jesus. We have many speaking and non-speaking parts to fill as well as special musical performances! See Christie or Stacie with any questions.

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.

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. Please order no later than **December 12th**.

THE 2014 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 CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE IN YOUR PACKET, plus the loose plate offering at the Christmas Eve Service goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help needy people and situations throughout the year. Please be as generous as you can.

THE 2014 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 2013 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

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.

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: "Dear Friends....thank you so much for the flowers delivered to my house on the first Sunday in Advent. They brightened what had been a very gray and sick weekend for me and allowed me to remember my friends at Messiah. God bless you all this holiday season....and get your flu shot!!"

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 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Everyone is asked to bring a reading, poem, etc. for the program as well as cookies, candy, bread, etc. for refreshments. Beverage will be provided.

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 COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSAL will be held on Monday, December 9 from **7:00 to 8:15 p.m.** in the Juniata High School music room. This year's 17th annual Christmas Cantata performance "JOY TO THE WORLD" will be held Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium with live tableaux as an enhancement to the overall presentation. A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS auditorium.

THE FOOD PANTRY will be working with the Mifflintown Kiwanis Club, local churches and the Boy Scouts to help provide Christmas meals for every person in Juniata County who needs one. We are again asking this month for help to provide holiday meals. For every \$7.00 donated we can provide a complete holiday meal for a family of four. Or we will gladly accept donations of turkeys, hams, stuffing, sweet potatoes, fresh potatoes, fresh fruit (apples & oranges), rolls, and cake and icing mixes. If you will be alone for the holidays, please talk to your local pastor and they will be glad to match you up with a family to enjoy a Christmas meal. Our vestibule (located on ramp side of building) is open any hour any day to received donations. Cash or gift card donations may be deposited through the mail slot. Hours are Monday and Wednesday, 2—6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Please make checks payable to the “Juniata County Food Pantry,” P.O. Box 44, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Hanging of the Greens Service (Chrismons).
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -5:30 p.m., Showers/Disciples Class Christmas Party at Walker Grange.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA Christmas Festival in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -2 p.m., Christmas Cantata for Senior Citizens at Juniata High School.
-7 p.m., Square & Line Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-2 p.m., Christmas Cantata at Juniata High School.