

# 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  
Robert St. Clair  
Readers  
Altar Guild

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Linda Leister & Cynthia Smith  
Linda Leister

\*PLEASE STAND AS **YOU** ARE ABLE

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS GREENS SERVICE December 9, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.**

### **PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY**

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Sarah D., Gene R., Jesse K., Susan M., Tammy W., Josh B., Matt H., Cade C., JoAnn B., Lura A., Herbert B., Jeanette S., Martin E., Pat and Joe F., Dave P., Dan C., Florence B., Betty K., family of Linda F., family of Fannie K., family of Jim M., and the congregation and pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Coudersport, PA.

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP  
MEDITATION AND PRAYER  
PRELUDE

***[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]***  
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* 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  
ANTHEM  
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

Cynthia Smith

<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

Linda 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 they 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

Cynthia Smith

<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!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:7b

Linda 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

Cynthia Smith

<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

Linda 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

Cynthia Smith

<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”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:17-20

Linda 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

Cynthia Smith

<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”

#### 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 God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

**(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 Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.*

**C Amen**

### \* BLESSING

*P May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

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

### \* DISMISSAL

*P: Go in Peace. Christ is with you. C: Thanks be to God!*

### \* POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Bob St. Clair

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey

## **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 by Don and Barb Geedey.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO Connie Eby and family on the death of her mother, Fannie King, who died on December 4, 2012 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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 – Phillip Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts in the Episcopal Church during the early 1890s: Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of God's willingness.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED TO FUND 2012 EXPENSES IS \$3,250. Offering received on 12/2/12 was \$\_\_\_\_\_.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES by Augsburg Fortress are available in the church office for anyone who would like one. Cost is normally \$35.00 but we were able to get them at the sale price of \$18.75 plus shipping.

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.

THE 2013 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 OFFERING ENVELOP in your packet, plus the loose plate offering at the Christmas Eve Service goes to the Matthew 25 account to help needy people and situations throughout the year. Please be as generous as you can.

THE 2013 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 2012 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

#### UPCOMING

- December 13, WELCA Christmas Festival at 7 p.m. in the Youth Area.
- December 14, Civil War Christmas event in sanctuary/Adult Sunday School Room from 1—8 p.m.
- December 16, Christmas Cantata at 2 p.m. at Juniata High School.
- December 23, Children's Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:15 a.m.
- December 24, Family/Youth Christmas Service at 7 p.m. Prelude Concert at 9:30 p.m. with Louis Lynch. Candlelight Service at 10 p.m.

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.

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).

#### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area for their Christmas Festival. Please bring a Christmas or favorite reading for devotions and a “goodie” for the refreshment table.

## **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).

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE will be held December 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church for those who are having a difficult time as a result of a death, job loss, health concern, or general sadness this Christmas season. You do not need to be alone in your pain. Come join us and hear prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge God's presence with us.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY BRANCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY needs bell ringers for the holiday season. Individuals, Sunday School classes, or youth groups who are willing to help may call Sylvia Kepner at 527-2386.

THE FINAL COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSAL will be held on Tuesday, December 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room. This year's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Cantata performance "Season of Wonders" will be held Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium.

### **JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**

#### **BASIC NEEDS:**

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

#### **HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS:**

TURKEYS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, STUFFING, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES, GRAVY MIX, CAKE MIX AND READY MADE ICING.

NURSE'S NOTES – **Stressed out? Skip the late show** – Getting enough sleep can help you handle the demands of daily life. For most adults, seven to eight hours a night is the right amount. If you're drowsy during the day, your bedtime routine may need a tune-up. Try these tips: 1. Don't watch TV, work or eat in bed. 2. Create a relaxing bedtime ritual, such as listening to soft music. 3. Keep your bedtime consistent from day to day, including on weekends. ([Online]. October 17, 2012. MayoClinic.com. *Housecall*. Vol. 13, Issue 42).

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Christmas Greens Service/Communion.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA Christmas Festival in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -1—8 p.m., Civil War Christmas event in sanctuary/Adult Sunday School Room.  
-7 p.m., Sq. Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.  
-2 p.m., Christmas Cantata at Juniata High School.