

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
Louis Lynch
Bob St. Clair
Kay Varner

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 1, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Laurie F., Mason B., Beth S., Denny K., Mark K., Kaye C., Stephanie M., Jesse K., Matt H., Sarah D., Dorothy P., Ryan K., and Max and Mary E.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE [A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

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

Today the church celebrates the lesser festival of the Name of Jesus.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* 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 confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P God of glory, God of peace,

C we confess that we have shunned the light that reveals the truth about us. We cling to worldly things rather than sharing the gifts of this earth. We trust ourselves above all. Save your people, O God; sustain the rivers and trees that sing your praise; and free us to live boldly in the light and truth of Jesus, our Savior. Amen

P The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in + Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope and joy.

C Amen

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

"What Child Is This"

p. 13 in bulletin

* GREETING

P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C Christ, have mercy upon us.

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

"Away in a Manger" (verse 1)

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

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C Christ, have mercy upon us.

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (**spoken**)

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

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

P *Let us pray...*

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

WORD

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

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 61:10—62:3

THE LESSON READS:

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

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

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148

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

O Come, let us 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

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

SECOND READING

A reading from Galatians 4:4-7

THE LESSON READS:

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

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE "Joy to the World" (vs. 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

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

* GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

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

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

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

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

p. 14 in bulletin

* 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 Rejoicing in this new year of grace, let us bring our prayers for the church, all creation, and the needs of the world before God.

A brief silence.

P Let us pray for all the baptized, rejoicing in our adoption as children of God and, by the power of the Spirit, confessing the name of Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for birds of the air, land animals, and sea creatures, that we may live in harmony with all of creation and join with it in praising God. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for peace throughout the world, that we would not keep silent in the face of war, strife, and oppression, but work for reconciliation and healing at home and abroad. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for all in need; for the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Laurie Funk, Mason Beward, Beth Smith, Denny King, Mark Krobath, Kaye Clark, Stephanie Minnick, Jesse Kint, Matt Hutchinson, Sarah Dressler, Dorothy Patterson, Ryan Keresey, and Max and Mary Ernest and family), that they might experience your consolation; for the elderly, that they might live in dignity; and for the dying, that they might have peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for the children of our congregation, that they will grow strong in their faith and be filled with the wisdom of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Let us give thanks for Anna, Simeon, and all the saints whose lives of worship and praise reveal to us the salvation and redemption of God through Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Rejoicing in the glory of the Lord revealed to the world, we offer these and all our prayers to you, O God of our salvation.

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 "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 bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
Come, eat, and live.*

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 Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, 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

SENDING

* 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)

* CLOSING HYMN

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

p. 15 in bulletin

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner (*Clint & Jamie Miller—bread/cup*)

WELCOME

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

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

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

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Max and Mary Ernest and family on the death of their son, Leslie Mark Ernest, who died on December 25, 2011 at his home in Knoxville Md. Please keep Max and Mary and their family in your prayers. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on January 14, 2012 at Messiah Lutheran Church.

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 – Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968), Trappist Monk: "An artist who is wise thinks more than he paints, and a poet who respects his art burns more (manuscripts) than he publishes."

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CHURCH ORGANIST for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlc-mifflintown.org.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

THE 2012 FLOWER CHART has been placed 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 2012 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick-up. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2011 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE BOARD OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT will meet on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, December 25, 2011: \$150.00. This brings the total received to \$64,552.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

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, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

COMMUNITY

CAKES FOR MEALS-ON-WHEELS! Volunteers are needed to bake or buy a cake one time a year for Meals-On-Wheels and deliver the cake to Westminster Presbyterian Church where the meals are prepared for delivery. You will be called only once a year to supply a cake. Please contact Pat Fisher at 436-9781 if you can help.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be holding the following local blood drives:

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Port Royal Community Building
Port Royal, PA

Saturday, January 14, 2012
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Tuscarora Elementary School
Port Royal, PA

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID or two other forms of identification to the donor site. To schedule an appointment call 1-800 Red Cross.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY – DISH SOAP, ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT

THE STAFF OF HOSPICE: The Bridge, Lewistown Home Health invites those who wish to share a part of themselves with those among us with end-stage illnesses, to join us for our Spring Volunteer Training. The training will be held at the convenience of the participants and will be held at the Hospice office located at 305 Fourth Avenue, Pleasant Acres, Lewistown, PA.

We believe that as we give the gift of time, we receive the gift of gratitude.

As we give the gift of presence, we receive the gift of trust.

As we give the gift of caring, we receive the gift of love.

There is no greater gift than love.

NURSE'S NOTES – Studies at Miami University in Ohio found that in addition to being more fit, pet owners had higher self-esteem and were less fearful and preoccupied – qualities linked to better health habits and longer life. Nor did they fit the stereotypes of the isolated cat lady or wacky dog mom. "People who were close to their pets were also closer to their friends and relatives," stated lead researcher, Allen R. McConnell, Ph.D. "Plus, they got the most benefit if they saw human-like qualities in their pets."

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., N/A meeting in Youth Area.
-7 p.m., Board of Resource Management meeting in Library.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-7 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Friday:** -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.