

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Randy Clark
Linda Leister

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING November 30, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

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., family of Dorothy M.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Meditation on ‘Veni Emmanuel’”

J. Scriveyner

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Andrew Apostle – *The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.*

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.

C Amen

P Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Faithful God,

C we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. Amen

P God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God

C Amen

* DEDICATION OF ADVENT WORSHIP BANNER

We dedicate a new worship banner to the glory of our Lord. The use of God's gift of Christian art in worship proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ, encourages the praise of his people on earth, and reflects our intention to bring Jesus our best and finest offerings. Such furnishings serve well when they proclaim to the heart of the believer the message of what Christ has done for us. Today we set apart this worship banner for use in God's house, to his glory. This new Advent banner reminds us of the four Sundays of Advent and the candles we light as we prepare to celebrate his incarnation and wait for the second coming of Christ.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: We gather in prayer to dedicate a new worship banner to the glory of the Triune God.

C: We give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

P: Gracious Father, we know that you delight in hearing the prayers and praise of your people.

C: Thank you, Lord, for the making of your own, for the blessing of public worship, for the comfort and strength you give in this place, and for the praise and joy you prompt in our hearts.

P: Thank you for many gifts which help to proclaim your gospel: for language and poetry, for music, and for art and architecture; each focusing our minds and hearts on your marvelous grace in Baptism, Holy Communion, and the proclamation of your Word.

C: Bless us whenever we gather in your name and move us to use these gifts to praise you.

P: You have given to your Church throughout the world artisans who create fine and beautiful things which inspire our worship and glorify your name. For all who use their gifts to your glory.

C: We thank you, O Lord.

P: For those who use their time and ability to prepare and assist our worship: for those who preside at worship and preach the Gospel, for singers and musicians, for those who prepare your house each week, for talent with flowers, banners and with all the arts.

C: We thank you, O Lord.

P: Lord, you blessed those who acquired this new worship banner with the ability to work together in unity and joy. You moved the hearts of your saints to give generous offerings back to you. Their stewardship of time, talents, and treasures is a rich blessing to us. For those who labored faithfully and gave freely.

C: We thank you, O Lord.

P: You gave us the beauty of liturgy for worship. As you walk with us on our annual pilgrimage through the Christian Year, guide us with the changing colors of the worship banner. For Christian art which proclaims the wonder of Christ for the benefit of fellow believers and for the strengthening of faith.

C: We thank you, O Lord.

P: Lord, we confess that we do not always put our hearts and minds into worship. Forgive our sins of approaching you too casually, carelessly, infrequently, or with indifference.

C: Send your Holy Spirit so that everything that we see, hear, and do in this place spiritually enriches us and is an offering to you.

P: Bless our use of both familiar and new forms and symbols in worship. Help us to sense our connection with believers of all times and places.

C: We dedicate this worship banner to your glory, O Lord, and for the benefit of your holy people, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

* BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, 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.**

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1)

It came up – on the mid – night clear, that glo – rious song of old,
from an – gels bend – ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gra – cious king."
The world in sol – emn still-ness lay to hear the an – gels sing.

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.**

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (**spoken**)

P The Lord be with you **C And al-so with you.**

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

P Let us pray...

C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, new and forever. Amen

WORD

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40-55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

The First Lesson is from the 64th chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered

us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L – Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

All – Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Second Lesson is from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—

⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

- * THE VERSE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1)

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-joyce! Re-joyce! Em – man – u – el shall come to you, O Is – ra – el.

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

- * GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

C Glo - ry to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

- * HYMN OF THE DAY "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"
- * 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

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P Come, long-expected one. Awaken your church to be alert for signs of your coming in unexpected people and places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come, Savior of the nations. Let your justice and righteousness dwell among all the peoples of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come, Creator of all. Amidst the shortness of life, teach us to wonder at the sun, moon, stars, mountains, oceans, and all creatures great and small. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come, Love divine. Enfold with your mercy all who watch and wait for hope in the midst of suffering, hardship, poverty, unemployment, illness, or grief (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Dorothy Patterson, Sarah Shellenberger, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jesse Kint, Jim Woltman, Ed Forney, Jackie Abate, Jean McNaight, Sara Ann Aurand, Sarah Dressler, Heidi Woltman, Layton Jury, Allison Saner, Miriam Sowers Bolton, Charlene Aughey, Kelly Yorks, Dave Phelan, Ralph Goss, Dottie Smith, Doug Wagner, Nancy Peters, Ellie Ritzman, Grace Miller, Luella McLaughlin, Bob Gill, Ray Baker, Shirley and Denton Ritzman, and family of Dorothy Milliken). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come, giver of grace. Turn this community toward the light of your forgiveness and mercy as we wait for the advent of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Come, creative Spirit. Inspire us by the faith of (the apostle Andrew and) those who have gone before us as we trust in your promise to bring all things to fulfillment in Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE RITE OF HEALING

“Heavenly Gift”

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come forward to the altar rail. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need

of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse, or health care worker.

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

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

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

C Amen

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

C Amen

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

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

C Amen

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Preparation For the King"

A. Corelli

[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

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)**

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 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

"Lord We Thank Thee"

W. R. Clarke

["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

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

“The King Shall Come”

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Sam Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark

NEXT WEEK'S GREETERS & USHERS – Ken, Tawny, Harrison, Haley & Olivia Mummah

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.

OUR NEW ADVENT BANNER is presented to the church by monies from the Zendt Estate and from the purchase of Weis Club Cards by the Congregation in memory of Andrew and Ruth Zendt.

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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Marlin Milliken and family on the death of his mother, Dorothy Milliken, who died on November 23, 2014 at Golden Living Center – William Penn, Lewistown, PA. Please keep Marlin and 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 – Thomas a' Kempis, Medieval Catholic Monk and the probable author of "The Imitation of Christ" (1380 – 1471): Truly, when the Day Of Judgment comes, we will not be examined on what we have read, but what we have done; not how well we have spoken, but how we lived.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

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

CHILDREN' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – Children will be practicing for the Christmas program at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday through November and December. 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.mlcsmifflintown.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 8th** so we have an approximate number. Cynthia Smith: 436-8512, Jean Compton: 436-6079 or the church office: 436-6213.

DECORATING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will be held today. A light lunch will be provided following the worship service prepared by the Fellowship Committee. Those attending are asked to bring 1-2 dozen cookies. Decorating will follow lunch.

"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.

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 during the worship service. This year it will be the Christmas Greens (Service of the Manger). Please bring a nativity figure from your manger at home for the service.

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 Mumma or Pastor Esborn. Church office phone number is 436-6213, email address is messiahlutheran@pa.net.

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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Betsy Long for donating all of the wreaths to decorate our doors for Christmas and to Diana Wise for making all of the bows for the wreaths.

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.

THANKOFFERING ENVELOPES may still be returned to help the Churchwide Women of the ELCA with their many projects. Envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please make checks payable to "Messiah Women of the ELCA."

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 **December 7, 2014**.

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 18th 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 21st event (December 22nd and 23rd at 7:00 p.m. are available snow dates). A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 19th at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS auditorium.

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.

FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS

TURKEYS OR TURKEY BREASTS; CRANBERRY SAUCE; STUFFING;
CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES; INSTANT MASHED POTATOES;
CANNED SWEET POTATOES; GRAVY MIX OR CANNED GRAVY;
CAKE MIX AND READY MADE ICING OR OTHER DESSERT MIX;
OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

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

Visit our **Website:** www.jcfoodpantry.com

Like us on **Face Book!**

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:**
- First Sunday of Advent.
 - Food Pantry Sunday.
 - 9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
 - 10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church.
 - Dedication of Advent Banner.
 - Lunch in Fellowship Hall following Worship Service.
 - Church decorating following lunch.
- Monday:**
- 8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:**
- 9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:**
- 7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:**
- 1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
 - 6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Sunday:**
- 9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
 - 10:30 a.m., Hanging of the Greens Service.
 - 1—6 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.