

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street

Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn

June Bricker

Andrea Cameron

Bob St. Clair

Diana Wise & Tawny Mummah

Malin Kint

Harrison Mummah & Haley Mummah

Pastor

Organist

Choir Director

Lector

Altar Guild

Crucifer

Acolytes

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to “Prayers of Intercession.”

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

PRELUDE:

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst

Arr. Lani Smith

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C Amen.

P Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P To you, O God,

C We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C Amen.

* DEDICATION OF ADVENT WORSHIP BANNERS

The Advent banners are dedicated to all members past and present who created them for the Glory of God. 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 these worship banners for use in God's house, to his glory. These new Advent banners remind 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 these new worship banners 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 these new worship banners 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 bless-

ing 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 these worship banners 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.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

* 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 upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn still-ness lay to hear the angels 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 also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The First Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Zephaniah.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Isaiah 12:2-6

L – In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12:6)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel..

All – In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

The Second Lesson is from the 4th chapter of Philippians.

THE LESSON READS:

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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. 3)

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

* GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do

likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

* 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 Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

A brief silence.

P For the church throughout the world, for bishops, pastors, and seminaries, for the courage to live out the challenges of our baptism, and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the earth, for glaciers, for the protection of dormant vegetation and hibernating animals, and for wisdom in the use and care of the creatures and landscapes we live among, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the nations of the world, for soldiers and police, for all who suffer political oppression, for our enemies, and especially for (here places or situations in need of peace may be named), let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For all those in need, for those who are sick or cold, injured or outcast, for victims of fraud or extortion, for all who will die today, and especially for all of our shut-ins: (Marian Gross, Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Ethel Bossinger, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Earl & Mona Lawson, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Allison Garver, Clara Shepps, Andy & Wesley Kinzer, Kaiden Woods, Tina Hutchinson, Leiah Bridges, Mical Gayer, Judy Grimes, Sara Ann Aurand, Betsy Aumiller, Jodi Fitzgerald, Virginia Waller, Mindy Fryer, Mary Ann Bardell, Audrey Morral, Diane Layton, Gabby Baney, Josh Delancey, Kay Stuck, Minnie Minick, Tina Benner, Don Wert, Shirley Zeiders, Michelle Stoner, Sue Crouse, Sandy Pines, Carol Jan Mahlin and sons, Nancy Hannon, Tanner Johnson, Vincenzo Evola, and Ed Forney, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For this congregation, for joy in Christ, and for our community, for an increase in practices that truly enact justice and compassion, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We praise you, O God, for the lives of all the faithful departed that we complete our baptismal journey in you, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus 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:

Hail, Star of Heaven

E. Grieg

[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:

Come, Emmanuel, Come

Ruth Elaine Schram

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

Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne;

For he will open heav'n above 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 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.

SENDING

* 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)

* CLOSING HYMN

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

Postlude on Veni, Emmanuel

Robert J. Powell

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise & Tawny 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 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Diane Hower by family.

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 – Samuel Johnson, English Author (1709 – 1784): The three persons in the Godhead are three in one sense and one in another. We cannot tell how – and that is the mystery.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

November 29, 2015 Worship Service

Attendance – 75

Total Offering - \$3,756.00

General Fund - \$3,188.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 48

Offering - \$80.00

December 6, 2015 Worship Service

Attendance – 80

Total Offering - \$4,145.00

General Fund - \$2,802.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 52

Offering - \$80.00

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

NEW ENVELOPES – The envelopes for 2016 are in the back of the Adult Sunday School Room and are ready to be taken home. Please be aware that your number has changed and the envelopes are now in alphabetical order according to last names. There are only 52 envelopes in each box—no colored extras for various funds. Please check the funds and the amount you wish to contribute on the front of the envelope. **IMPORTANT: On the memo line of your check(s) also please specify which funds and how much. You may use one check for several funds (specifying on both envelope and check) or write a separate check for each fund.** Thanks for helping us save \$200.00 on envelopes this year. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2015 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE SECRETARY'S WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

GIANT STORE GIFT CARDS are also now available as well as the Weis Cards to purchase from members of the Disciples Class.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE PASTOR – 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'). Please make checks payable to the pastor.

THANKS TO MESSIAH MEMBERS for giving to two special offerings. Blanket Sunday offering totaled \$370.00 and Thankoffering totaled \$583.00. Both offerings support the ministry of the Women of the ELCA.

PPC MEETING will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Youth Area. Copies of October PPC minutes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room for anyone who would like a copy.

CARD MINISTRY – The Compassionate Service Committee is in need of someone to take over a card ministry as of January 1, 2016. This card ministry includes sending cards to those making memorial contributions to Messiah as well as sending cards to our shut-ins on the holidays. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, contact Don Geedey at 436-6433 or email to geedey@centurylink.net.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2016 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1st Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office.

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

THE 2016 FLOWER CHART will be in the Adult Sunday School Room soon. 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.

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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PLAY – Messiah’s youth will present the annual Christmas play at the beginning of the worship service on Sunday, December 20th beginning at 10:30 a.m. The children are very excited to continue this Messiah tradition. Children will practice for the program each Sunday during Junior Church (10:30 a.m.) in the Junior Church Room. Children are asked to go directly to the Junior Church Room following Sunday School. Contact Kate Swales with any questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – ALL ARE WELCOME!! – The 2015 Christmas Eve Service will be one service this year, beginning at 7:30 PM, Thursday, December 24th, preceded at 7:00 PM by a prelude concert of Christmas music presented by harpist Mr. Louis Lynch of Camp Hill. This service will be a combined service of family, communion, and candle lighting. The junior and senior choirs, directed by Linda Clark and Andrea Cameron, respectively, will both provide anthems throughout the service. Service music and accompaniment for the choirs will be provided by Robert St. Clair. Scripture and carols will be part of the service as well. If you are willing to help be a part of this service – lecturing, candle lighting, church lights (during candle lighting), communion attendants, ushers for offering, greeters, etc., please let Diana Wise, Bob St. Clair, or Pastor Esborn know. We look forward to this being a VERY special service this year and are anticipating the celebration of our Lord Jesus and the arrival of the Christmas season at Messiah!

CAN TREE – Donations of gallon-size canned food is again being collected this year, now through December, to benefit Bethesda Mission. Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer cooks, drivers and people to help assemble meals. **Cooks are especially needed for the 5th Tuesday and 5th Friday of the month.** If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

APARTMENT FOR RENT AT JAM HOUSE – The board of directors at JAM House is looking for an individual or a couple to rent the four-room apartment attached to our house. The apartment has a separate entrance, parking and all utilities are included with the \$800/mo. rent. If you know of someone who may be interested, please contact Larry Wise at 436-6629.

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL AND
BABY CARE PRODUCTS, AND CLEANING SUPPLIES

HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:
HAMS, CANNED FRUITS, CANNED SWEET
POTATOES, AND DESSERT MIXES

**DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS
ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!**

*Unfortunately, we have recently been forced to lock our vestibule doors due to theft. We are very sorry for the inconvenience and are working on a solution. In the meantime, please leave donations during the hours we are open. If this is not possible, give us a call and we will work out a convenient time for you.

THE FINAL COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSAL will be held on Tuesday, December 15 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School Music Room. This year's 19th annual Christmas Cantata performance "The Winter Rose" will be held Sunday, December 20, 2015 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 20th event (December 21st and 22nd at 7:00 p.m. are available snow dates). A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS Auditorium.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Cate. Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting in Youth Area.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal .
- Friday:** -2 p.m. Christmas Cantata performance for Senior Citizens at Juniata High School.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Children's Christmas Program.
-2 p.m., Christmas Cantata at "The Winter Rose" Juniata High School.