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 Diana Wise & Tawny Mummah Tai Kepler Tyler Rosenberry & Emma Arentz Pastor Organist Choir Director Lector Altar Guild Crucifer Acolytes

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS December 27, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today-please refer to "Prayers of Intercession."

PREPARATION

PRELUDE:

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

"Christmas Trilogy"

R. W. Thygerson

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

* 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 come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for ref lection.

P God of peace,

C We confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves.

We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- P In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

- * ENTRANCE HYMN "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"
- * 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)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep 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")
 - 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 Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

FIRST READING

A reading from 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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 adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore 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

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

SECOND READING

A reading from Colossians 3:12-17

THE LESSON READS:

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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.

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"What Child Is This"

* 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 with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P Let us pray for evangelists and pastors; for teachers and storytellers; for seminarians and those discerning their call to ministry; and for all who proclaim the gospel in word

and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the earth and all its creatures; for those seeking refuge from damaging storms; for those who work outdoors in weather that is hard to bear, in winter cold or summer heat; and for all whose labor provides us with food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all nations and their leaders; for those who bring harmony within division; for those who challenge injustice and prejudice; and for those who are sent far from home to serve and protect others. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For parents of missing children; for youth who have no safe place to call home; for travelers; for those who are anxious; for those who grieve and all who are sick (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, Bowie Smith, Ed Forney, Clay Ianson, and Steve Dreibelbis. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For this assembly; for musicians and poets; for elders and youth; for those who ask questions and those who mentor others to deeper faith and compassionate service. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died, especially (the apostle and evangelist John) and those whose lives have helped us to see your love and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.
- 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."

ANTHEM

[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].

- * SUNG OFFERTORY "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verse 1)
 - O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
 - Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
 - yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
 - The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- * 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 mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.

(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).

COMMUNION:	"Padre Nuestro"	J. Southbridge
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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 We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - C Amen.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
 - C Amen.
 - P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
 - C Amen.
 - P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
 - C Amen.
 - P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always
 - C A-men, A-men, A-men. (sung)
- * CLOSING HYMN

"Cold December Flies Away"

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Christ is with you. C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Briley Holderman NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner

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.

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 <u>THURSDAY</u> <u>NOON</u>.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Richard Halverson, Former Chaplain of U. S. Senate: If a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, his witness will not be optional or mandatory – it will be inevitable.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

December 13, 2015 Worship Service Attendance – 78 Total Offering - \$3,147.00 General Fund – \$2,763.00

<u>Sunday School</u> Attendance – 50 Offering - \$140.

December 20, 2015 Worship Service Attendance – 110 Total Offering - \$3,545.00 General Fund (minus all funds) - \$2,574.00

<u>Sunday School</u> Attendance – 47 Offering - 30

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at <u>dskint@nmax.net</u>. 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 <u>your number has changed</u> 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** <u>memo</u> 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 –** <u>12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m</u>.

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

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 is now 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.

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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

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.

WHAT IS CIMT AND HOW CAN IT HELP ME? Carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) measurement is a non-invasive screening tool, using ultrasound, that provides very useful information about a person's cardiovascular health. It detects the earliest traces of plaque within the layers of the artery walls, years before there is enough obstruction of blood flow to cause heart attack or stroke. It also allows the calculation of "arterial age," which equates a person's average carotid artery thickness to a person of that age who is at a normal risk. The Prevention Health Screenings group will be at **Messiah Lutheran Church on Friday, January 15, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** to offer you this CIMT screening along with 7 other quick, painless, non-invasive health screenings to see if you are at risk for serious health problems. The costs vary depending on how many screenings you have done. You must have an appointment to have the screenings done and appointments are at first-come-first-serve—so register early. This program has been very popular in the past years. **Call 1-800-257-3516 or go to www.preventionhealth.org for more information**.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY. -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Cate. Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
Monday:	-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
Sunday:	-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.