

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Malin Kint & Marina Holderman
Linda Clark
Jared Hutchinson
Caden Swailes & Nate Swailes

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Readers
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolytes

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE THE MANGER SCENE December 6, 2015 - 10:30 a.m.

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vss. 1 & 5)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, O Key of David come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **Refrain**

P We thank God for the joy that surrounds us in this place, and we ask God's blessing
as we prepare for the holy season of Christmas.

**C I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
(Psalm 122:1)**

P As we prepare the church for Christmas, let us prepare our hearts to receive Jesus,
our Savior and Friend. Gracious God, we thank you for the coming of Jesus long ago
in Bethlehem, for his willingness to become like us, to live with us, to die for us, and
to come to live with us again. Make us ready to open our lives to his coming every

day.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Help us to remember the gifts of Jesus' coming: how he fed the hungry, healed the sick, and freed us from fear. Free us now to do his work.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P You have promised to plant a tree by the riverside, a tree with roots deep in the soil of your love: Help us to grow and become strong and beautiful for you.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Make our homes bright with the joy of your presence and our churches alive with glad songs of praise for your coming. Give us faces that shine with your light for the world to see.

C Come, Lord Jesus. Amen

OFFERING

[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].

OFFERTORY:

ANTHEM: "Come to Us Little King" "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Junior Choir

CAROL "Joy to the World" (vss. 1 & 2)

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

(Congregation may bring their characters of the nativity forward and place them on the table in the front of the sanctuary)

P The evergreens are "old friends" of Christmas. They bring symbols of life to our church and homes, which calls to mind the life God gives us through the Savior, Jesus. With that life they bring beauty, fragrance and joy, and that truly is what Jesus brings to us with his life when we have him in our lives.

(Basket of greens brought forward and placed in front of the altar)

CAROL

“O Christmas Greens”

O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,
how faithful are your branches!
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,
how faithful are your branches.
So green when summer breezes blow;
still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,
how faithful are your branches.

O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,
O leaves of green, unchanging,
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,
O leaves of green, unchanging.
Since evergreen you stand, we know
God doth eternal life bestow.
O Christmas greens, O Christmas greens,
O leaves of green, unchanging.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 41:19-20

Malin Kint

¹⁹I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, ²⁰so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-5

Marina Holderman

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria). ³And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

(Mary and Joseph and donkey brought forward and placed in crèches)

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vss. 1 & 2)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:6-7

Malin Kint

⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn,
a son.

(Baby Jesus is brought forward and placed in the manger)

CAROL "What Child is This" (vss. 1 & 3)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laude, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:7b

Marina Holderman

^{7b}She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in
the inn.

(Bring stable animals forward and place in crèches)

CAROL "Away in a Manger"

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.
The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

(Bring shepherds and sheep forward)

CAROL “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” (vss. 1 & 5)

While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around, And glory shone around.

All glory be to God on high, And to earth be peace:
Good will hence-forth from heav'n to men Begin and never cease! Begin and never cease!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:9-14

Marina Holderman

⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴”Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

(Bring angels forward)

CAROL “Angels We Have Heard On High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-16

Malin Kint

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

CAROL “Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”

¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HOMILY

Pastor Esborn

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-11

Malin Kint

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶” ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’ “ ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

(Bring wise men forward)

CAROL “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (vss. 1 & 5)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. **Refrain**

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice,
heav’n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. **Refrain**

Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

BLESSING OF THE CRECHE CHARACTERS

P Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Bring the life of your living Word to these humble figures. May the story of your grace come to life in them as we return to our homes. May we be blessed with your presence in our hearts and lives, loving you above all things and loving our neighbors as ourselves in this holy season, now and forever.

C Amen

MEAL

* ADVENT DIALOG

P We have come with great expectation to meet the coming Messiah.

C All creation waits with longing for the Son of God.

P As John the Baptist cried in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord.”

C We prepare a place in our hearts and in the world for his coming.

P O come to us, Emmanuel!

C God, be with us and save us from our sins.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* THE LORD’S PRAYER [‘trespasses’] (all)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we

forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

(In hospitality and attempting to meet the needs of individuals, Messiah now offers gluten free communion hosts. If you wish to receive gluten free hosts, please come to the side where Pastor Esborn is serving).

DISTRIBUTION

[“INTINCTION” - dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his Grace.

C Amen

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

C Amen

*** BLESSING**

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

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

*** DISMISSAL**

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

*** POSTLUDE**

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Bob St. Clair

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

WELCOME

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.

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 – Stephen Charnock, Presbyterian Clergyman (1628 – 1680): We often learn more of God under the rod that strikes us, than under the staff that comforts us.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

November 22, 2015 Worship Service

Attendance – 62

Total Offering - \$3,032.00

General Fund - \$2,191.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 42

Offering - \$72.00

November 29, 2015 Worship Service

Attendance – 75

Total Offering - \$3,756.00

General Fund - \$3,188.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 48

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.

CHECKS – When designating a check or a portion of the check to a specific fund, please be sure to name the fund on the memo line of the check, as well as indicating the same fund on the envelope. Thank you. Questions, call Ann Beaver or the church office.

CHANGE OF ENVELOPE – Please note that your church envelope will look different in 2016. Resource Management Director, Bob Hazard approved Bob St. Clair’s research to make a change of envelope for a savings of \$200. Envelopes will be available in alphabetical order in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick up later in December. 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.

“THE NEEDLERS” CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

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 between November 22nd and December 13th. Contact Kate Swailes 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.

WELCA CHRISTMAS GATHERING will be Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area—all the ladies of the church are invited to attend a Christmas party. The attendees are asked to bring a Christmas table decoration which has special meaning for them, goodies to share and a seasonal reading or poem. All ladies are invited and are asked to bring a friend.

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 6th**.

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.

COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSALS will be held on the following dates listed below from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School Music Room. (Even if you cannot attend all of the rehearsals, please don't hesitate to join the group).

Monday, December 7

Tuesday, December 15

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., Hanging of the Greens Service.
- Monday:** -7 p.m., Bible Study in Library area.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-12 p.m., "The Needlers" Christmas Lunch in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., 4-H Beef Club in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA Christmas Gathering in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting in Youth Area.