

# 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  
Linda Clark  
June Bricker  
Diana Wise  
Kay Varner  
Tai Kepler  
Tyler Rosenberry and Gavin Kint  
Clint and Jamie Miller

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Junior Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild  
Crucifer  
Acolytes  
Cup Communion

## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY January 4, 2015 – 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., 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 & Jim M., Bob G., Ray B., Shirley & Denton R., Bill C., Marti G., Brian A., John & Sheila S., Barbara M., Rick V., Carol & John M., John M., family of Lorraine M.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.*

**C Amen**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

*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 "What Child Is This"

\* 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 (sung)

*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.*

"The First Noel" (verse 5)

Then en - tered in those wise . . men three,  
full . . rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee,  
and of - fered there in his . . . pres - ence  
their . . gold, . . . and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain* No - el, No - el No - el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

*P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*P Christ, have mercy upon us. C Christ, have mercy upon us.*

*P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.*

- \* HYMN OF PRAISE (to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")
  - 1 **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**
  - 2 **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**
  - 3 **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

- \* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (sung)
 

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

- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY [spoken in unison]
 

*P Let us pray...*

**C Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**WORD**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

The First Lesson is from the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of Jeremiah.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>7</sup>For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the

young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Lector: "Here ends the reading."

**Congregation: "Thanks be to God."**

PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20 (Intoned by Choir)

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem; praise your | God, O Zion,

**<sup>13</sup>who has strengthened the bars | of your gates and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace | on your borders and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

**<sup>15</sup>God sends out a command | to the earth, a word that runs | very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives | snow like wool, scattering | frost like ashes.

**<sup>17</sup>God scatters | hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them; the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

**<sup>19</sup>God declares the | word to Jacob, statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any | other nation; they do not know God's judgments. |  
Hallelujah!

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

The Second Lesson is from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Ephesians.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Lector: "Here ends the reading."

**Congregation: "Thanks be to God."**

\* **THE VERSE (sung)**

**Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o- pen now your sav - ing word. Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred. Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

\* **GOSPEL: John 1: [1-9] 10-18**

*P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.*

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

**THE GOSPEL READS:**

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

**SERMON**

Pastor Esborn

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

\* **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

**and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*P Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.*

*A brief silence.*

*P O God, your light shines in the face of our brother, Jesus. Enliven the church's testimony about the grace and truth made known in his life, death, and resurrection. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, you speak in the immensity of space and the tiny detail of every grain of sand. We praise you for the creative joy evident in the wonder of life all around us. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, with holy delight you led your chosen people out of slavery into freedom. Bring freedom and peace to exiles, refugees, and those oppressed by harsh governments. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, you stretch out your merciful hand to heal the sick and shield those who are troubled. Touch all who are burdened by want, loneliness, or illness. bring to them and to their caregivers healing and hope (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, Layton Jury, Allison Saner, Miriam Sowers Bolton, Charlene Aughey, Kelly Yorks, Dave Phelan, Dottie Smith, Doug Wagner, Nancy Peters, Ellie Ritzman, Grace Miller, Jim & Luella McLaughlin, Bob Gill, Ray Baker, Shirley & Denton Ritzman, Bill Crimm, Fay McCormick, Marti Geise, Brian Arentz, John & Sheila Sprenkle, Barbara Maxton, Rick Varner, Carol & John Mahlin, John Miller and family of Lorraine McKnight). Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, you are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Fill us with joyful hope in this new year, and guide us to have courage amid all the changes and chances of life. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P O God, you are the hope of the saints, the light that filled their hearts, the love that never failed them. Comfort those who mourn, and in your time bring us to our eternal home. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior.*

**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

"Joy to the World" "Do Lord"

Junior Choir

\* SUNG OFFERTORY ("vineyards") **(sung)**

**C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.**

**Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.**

\* 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**

\* GREAT THANKSGIVING **(sung responsively)**

*P The Lord be with you.*

**C And al-so with you.**

*P Lift up your hearts.*

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

*P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

\* PREFACE

*P It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn: (sung)*

**C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.**

\* 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.**

**(sung) Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men**

\* 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.*

\* LAMB OF GOD (**sung**)

**Lamb of God, you take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take a – way the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(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

["AT CHANCEL RAIL" – come forward by the aisle on your right; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Stand around the chancel rail to partake and return by the aisle to the left of your seat].

\* COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C Amen**

\* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (**sung**)

**C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-is. Al-le-lu-ia.**

\* 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**

\* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

*P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

**C Amen**

## SENDING

### \* BLESSING

*P* May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

*May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.*

*May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.*

*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 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

#### \* DISMISSAL

*P* Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C Thanks be to God.**

#### \* POSTLUDE:

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

Paul Manz

**NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR** – Linda Leister

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

## **WELCOME**

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

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

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

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Lorraine McKnight, who died on December 29, 2014 at Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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 – Johannes von Muller, Swiss Historian (1752 – 1809): Good has one enemy, the evil; but the evil has two enemies, the good and itself.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

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

**ANYONE WHO WISHES TO TAKE THEIR POINSETTIA(S) HOME, please do so after the service today.**

THE JANUARY 2015 “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](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com).

THE 2015 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES will soon be available for you to pick-up in the Adult Sunday School Room. 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.

CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED – 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 Mummah or Pastor Esborn. Church office phone number is 436-6213, email address is [messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto: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!

MESSIAH WILL BE HOSTING Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mt. Luther, on Sunday, February 8, 2015. This will also be Messiah Youth Sunday for 2015. The youth will be helping throughout the service and will also provide the anthem that day. They will be singing a few songs from VBS and maybe a few Camp Mt. Luther songs with the help of Chad and our Mt. Luther campers. If your campers have favorites, please let Kate Swailes know. If your child would like to write a letter about their camp experience or share their experience on February 8<sup>th</sup>, again, contact Kate Swailes.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held this winter. If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to attend the New Member Classes, please let the church office know by January 19, 2015.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 23, 2015 if you would like your child to attend. Date and time for the class will be arranged with parents.

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.

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.

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women are invited to attend.

## **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).

### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY**

**ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER;  
OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES.  
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH  
AND GIFT CARDS FOR LOCAL STORES.**

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](mailto:jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com)

Visit our **Website:** [www.jcfoodpantry.com](http://www.jcfoodpantry.com)

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### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- 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:** -7 p.m., WELCA in Youth Area.
- Saturday:** -Undecorating church.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr.Church.