

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
Barbara Geedey
Christie Holderman & Stacie Kint
Tai Kepler
Tyler Rosenberry & Emma Hazard

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolytes

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING November 29, 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: O How Shall I Receive Thee Melchoir Teschner

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

* 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.

*** BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

P We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

GATHERING

*** ENTRANCE HYMN** "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

*** GREETING**

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts 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.**

"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 (sung)**

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The First Lesson is from the 33rd chapter of Jeremiah.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

L – To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

All – To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

THE LESSON READS:

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

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

O come, O come, 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.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

* GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these

things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

* 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 Come to the church, saving God. Grant to your people your redemption. Stand with all Christians who are persecuted for the faith. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters. Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come to the nations of the world, sovereign God. Inspire all leaders to work for justice. Bring peace to Jerusalem. We pray for peace in (here places or situations in need of peace may be named). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Come to all in need, mighty God. Protect those who suffer injustice. Comfort those who live in fear. Heal the sick. Accompany the dying. We pray especially for all of our shut-ins: (Marian Gross, Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Ethel Bossinger, Jean

McNaught, 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, Guss Keiser, Kaiden Woods, Tina Hutchinson, Leah 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, Norm Gray, Tina Benner, Don Wert, Shirley Zeiders, Michelle Stoner, Sue Crouse, Sandy Pines, and Steve Bahorik. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from selfish excess. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Loving God, you bring to yourself all the faithful who have died. Strengthen us in holiness until with all the saints we come to see you face to face. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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.

THE RITE OF HEALING

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come forward to the altar rail. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse, or health care worker.

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

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

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

* PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)

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

C Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

* SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **“Peace be with you.”**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

Dearest Jesus, We Await Thee

J. S. Bach

[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:

A Tiny Child will Come

Don Besig and Nancy Price

* 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.

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

"Fling Wide the Door"

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Arr. Paul Manz

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Malin Kint
NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark

WELCOME

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

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

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

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 – Bruce Kemper, College President: Each of us, as members of the Body of Christ, has been given at least one spiritual gift.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

November 15, 2015 Worship Service

Attendance – 69

Total Offering - \$3,300.00

Total General Fund - \$2,641.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 46

Offering - \$84.00

November 22, 2015 Worship Service

Attendance – 62

Total Offering - \$3,032.00

General Fund - \$2,191.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 42

Offering - \$72.00

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

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.

DECORATING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will be today. A light lunch will be provided following the worship service prepared by the Fellowship Committee. Decorating will follow lunch.

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 during the worship service. This year it will be the "Christmas Greens" (Service of the Manger). Please bring a nativity figure from your manger at home for the service.

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**.

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

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.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY THRIVENT BOARD is asking for your help. As you are well aware, the Juniata County Food Pantry is in great need of financial assistance. We are inviting your congregation to take up a Freewill Offering today designated for the Food Pantry. All money raised should be sent to: Sandy Westover, 62 Book Drive, McAlisterville, PA 17049. We hope you take this opportunity to help us support our neighbors in Juniata County.

Your Juniata County Thrivent Board Members,
Don Bratton, President
Bob Spade, Vice President
Sandy Westover, Treasurer
Kathy Whitesel, Secretary
Sam Leister
Deb Cramer
Ruthlee Gloss

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -First Sunday of Advent.
-FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY (Special Freewill Offering Collected).
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Cate. Class.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church
-11:30 p.m., Lunch in Fellowship Hall followed by decorating of the church.
- 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.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Hanging of the Greens Service.