

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Sam Leister
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Ron Yorks
Tawny Mummah
Hannah Ehrisman & Harrison Mummah
Kevin & Kate Swailes

Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Greeters

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 11, 2016 – 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

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

* RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

P These persons desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism as a sign of their renewed participation in the life and work of the Church of Christ.

John and Kim White and their son Jace.

Dear friends, we rejoice that you have returned to the household of God to claim again the eternal inheritance which is your birthright in Holy Baptism.

Brothers and sister in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation.

You have been [nourished at his holy table and] called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Response: I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

ALL I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

ALL 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

ALL 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

- * P Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere: That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
P That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
P That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
P That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
P That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me

P Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made this man, woman and child your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence: through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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."**

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of all time,

C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

#369 LBW

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE

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

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

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

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 1)

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

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

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

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

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you **C And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The First Lesson is from the 3^{5th} chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful

heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

L – The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God; **⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;** ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

All – The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

The Second Lesson is from the 5th chapter of James.

THE LESSON READS:

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

* THE VERSE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 3)

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

Refrain

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

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

* GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“You Servants of God”

Sam Leister

#252 LBW

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P For the church and all messengers of the gospel, for all who call upon the name of the Lord, and for congregations throughout the world; that God work through us to bring harmony and reconciliation, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For rain forests and deserts, for wilderness and developed land, and for plants blossoming and dormant; that the splendor and diversity of creation proclaim the glory of the Lord, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For our government, for the military and international relief workers, and for those who care for the stranger, widow, and orphan; that God raise up leaders who work for the protection of all, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the hungry and homeless, for those in captivity, for the fearful and sorrowful, for those living with HIV/AIDS, and for the sick (especially all of our shutins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Bob Cameron, Michal Gayer, Josh Delancey, Letha Swab, Brady Mingle, Belva Fulton, Joan Foltz, and Janie Shearer; that those who help others serve with patience and grace, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For all who call this community home, for those visiting from near and far, and for those preparing for the holiday season, that the advent of Christ make our hearts and minds rejoice, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P In thanksgiving for the departed who were faithful to God's word; that their words and actions direct us to the one who prepares a way for us, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

[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:

- * 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 Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.
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 Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel).

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 God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and

forever.

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

- * CLOSING HYMN “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” #54 LBW
 - * DISMISSAL
- P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Kate Swailes

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Yorks

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Nathan Swailes & Tyler Rosenberry

NEXT WEEK’S GREETERS – Jean & Garrett Berry

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 or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. 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.

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.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

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.

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.

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

WE WELCOME into the fellowship of our congregation today, John and Kim White and their son Jace. We are pleased to have them become a part of the Messiah family.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Sam Leister, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church's pilgrimage, the church's inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop's responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

JUST A THOUGHT – Oswald Chambers, early twentieth century Scottish Christian minister and teacher (1874 – 1917): When Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross, it was not the blood of one man for another; it was the life of God poured out to redeem the world.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

THE DEADLINE for all items to be included in the Sunday bulletin is **Thursday noon**.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact Judy directly at the church office at 436-6213 or at messiahlutheran@pa.net. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

CHOIR GOWN/CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE DONATIONS UPDATE: Of the \$1368 that was needed, we have received \$410 leaving a total of **\$958 still needed**. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark your check on the note line “choir gowns,” or if giving cash, put in an envelope also marked “choir gowns.” We greatly appreciate those who have already given and thank any others in advance for any amount you feel you can contribute to this project.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. At this time of the year, in particular, there are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email messiahlutheran@pa.net for any changes or requests.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>December 4, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Attendance – 73	Attendance – 26	Sunday School -	\$ 62.00
Total Offering - \$4,300.00		Benevolence -	115.00
<u>1,547.00</u>		Building Fund -	930.00
General Fund - \$2,753.00		Flowers -	65.00
		Summer Camp -	30.00
		Choir Gowns -	255.00
		Use of F. H. -	50.00
		Mem. Fund -	<u>40.00</u>
			\$ 1,547.00

MESSIAH'S DOORS will be unlocked at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS – Any Messiah member who wishes to receive the monthly financial reports and the weekly tallies by email, please send Ann Beaver (annbeaver@embarqmail.com) your email address.

COPIES OF OCTOBER PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

MUSIC PRELUDE begins at 7:00 p.m. with our own Bob St. Clair showcasing his talents for our enjoyment, performing an organ concert of Christmas music!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include singing of Carols, a special anthem by the Jr. & Sr. Choirs, and our own Andrea Cameron singing “Ave Maria.” Please plan to attend this beautiful service for the whole family in celebration of anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

MESSIAH UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

- 1) Today is the Second Sunday of Advent featuring the Hanging of the Greens Program (learning about the meaning behind some of our traditions).
- 2) Sunday, December 18, the Children’s Christmas Program will be included in the morning worship service.
- 3) Saturday, December 24th: Combined Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., a Prelude Concert will feature our own Bob St. Clair with special selections on the organ.

“THE NEEDLERS” CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

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

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. PLEASE ORDER BY **DECEMBER 19th**.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 436-6213 or Sam Leister at 436-8589. A date and time will be set based on those who wish to attend.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held for those who are interested. If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to attend the New Member Class, please call the church office at 436-6213.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT PACKETS (with blue covers) are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, call Ann Beaver at 436-9382.

HOME COMMUNION – The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for people who would like to give Communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins is used on a quarterly basis. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey. Phone: 436-6433 or Email: geedey@centurylink.net.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR SHUT-INS – The Compassionate Services Committee needs someone to do the birthday card ministry for our shut-ins beginning January 1, 2017. Addresses, birth dates, cards, and stamps are provided. All that is necessary to do is sign and mail the cards each month. If interested in this ministry, see Don

Geedey (phone, 436-6433 or email geedey@centurylink.net).

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to press quilt tops for “The Needlers.” Tops can be taken home and pressed and brought back to the church. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of “The Needlers.”

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2017 at Susquehanna University, Selingsgrove. 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 the church office.

WEEKLY CHURCH 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.

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

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected 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.

THE NEXT MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Cynthia Smith will be presenting the program.

ITEMS FOR THE SEAFARERS BAGS will be collected through next summer, that way everyone will get to take advantage of any holiday saving and after Christmas sales for the winter items. Items needed are:

- 1 sweatshirt, preferably hooded (sizes L-XL)
- 3 pairs of socks (thermal or white gym socks)
- 1 pull-over T-shirt (sizes M-L)
- 1 knit heavy winter cap

COMMUNITY

A CHRISTMAS TEA will be held in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. on December 15th. Everyone is invited to join us for carols, food and fellowship in celebration of the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS EVENT – The Upper Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, 589 Brick Church Road, East Waterford, PA [back road between Blairs Mills and Waterloo] will present “Singing the Songs of Christmas” on Friday, December 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Non-Denominational – ALL are invited!

THE JUNIATA HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA “Season of Wonders” by Joseph M. Martin will be presented on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at **5:00 p.m.** in the JHS Auditorium. Admission is FREE – donations will be accepted for the Juniata County Food Pantry.

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER THE COUNTER
COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, TISSUES AND PAPER TOWELS

HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER
HAMS (3-5 LBS), INSTANT POTATOES

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Third Sunday of Advent.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister.
-5 p.m., Annual Christmas Cantata at Juniata High School – “Season of Wonders” by Joseph M. Martin.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
-12:00 noon, “The Needlers” Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -Fourth Sunday of Advent.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School /Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Youth Christmas Program. Lay Worship Leader – Stephen Rodgers).