

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
The Rev. Craig Miller
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Kate Swailes
Tawny Mummah
Cindy Van Gavree, Joyce Spangler, Pat Cook
Haley Mummah & Maia Kepler
Steve & Linda Bahorik

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

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY **November 12, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.**

* Please Stand as **You** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: Contemplation
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

Richard I. Purvis

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” #687 Blue Hymnal

* GREETING

P 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.

* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the foundation of living water, the
rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s
mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah, his family, and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

- HYMN OF PRAISE “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” #36 Green Hymnal

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray....

C: Renewing God, pour out your power and come. In the waters of baptism you claim us and call us to be your beloved children. May water be our ever-present sign that you make all things new. Refresh us with the good news of Christ’s love and anoint us with your Holy Spirit, that we might know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your

forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV)

The First Lesson is from the 17th chapter of Exodus.

THE LESSON READS:

17From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strick the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: 104: 1-4, 31-35 (Responsively) (NIV)

¹Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

²**The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent**

³and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

⁴**He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.**

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works--

³²**he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.**

³³I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³⁴**May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.**

³⁵But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the Lord, my soul.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7 (NRSV)

The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Titus

THE LESSON READS:

⁴but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL: John 4:5-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food). ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans). ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have

given you living water.”¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband;’¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.”²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

The Rev. Craig Miller

* HYMN OF THE DAY “Take My Life, that I May Be”

#406 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES’ CREED

P: Let us confess our faith with the Apostles’ Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again,

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the

Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

To Give Thanks

Lani Smith

[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].

* OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of grace,

You have showered us with abundance and entrusted to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied.

C: Amen.

ANTHEM:

We Give Thanks

Arranged by Bruce Greer

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Called together into the Spirit's loving embrace, let us pray for the renewal of the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

P: We pray, holy God, for the unity of the church universal: Draw your church together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you send us.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C: Come Holy Spirit, come.

P: We pray, omnipotent God, for the well-being of creation: We give you thanks for transforming the chaotic waters of creation into saving waters that nourish and sustain our earth. Renew us every day by your water and word.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C: Come Holy Spirit, come.

P: We pray, righteous God, for peace and justice in the world: Lead the nations of the world away from the wilderness of sin and evil, and toward the light of love and peace. Give us a thirst for justice for all.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C: Come Holy Spirit, come.

P: We pray, compassionate God, for all in need: To those who are thirsty for love, for justice, for peace, for belonging, give the water of life. For those who are suffering or in pain, (especially all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, Betty Karstetter, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Avonel & Rick Waller, Sr., Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Randy Clark, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Tom Lyter, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Paul Goss, Dr. Laurie Cox, Pat Forney, Bob Bell, Megan Hart, Austin Parker, Kay Varner, Terry Coder, and Steve Bahorik. Bring healing balm and peace.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C: Come Holy Spirit, come.

P: We pray, faithful God, for the renewal of all life: Refresh us with your living water and anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Embolden us with your promise and your presence.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C: Come Holy Spirit, come.

P: Receive our thanksgiving, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith: for the fervent witness and testimony of the woman at the well. May we know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C: Come Holy Spirit, come.

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ('trespasses')

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (From Isaiah 55)

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P: All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread and eat.

C: Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P: Let us come to his table with joy,

C: for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(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: We thank you, gracious God, for loving all your family with a mother's tender care, and feeding us in a way our hearts can understand, with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ. Renew and enliven us by your presence in this meal, that we may be your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

P: In our wilderness, God gives us water from the rock. May you find hope and healing in God's promise of new life.

C: Amen.

P: Christ Jesus is the Messiah, the redeemer of the world. May you be refreshed by his life-giving water and Word.

C: Amen.

P: The Holy Spirit renews the face of the earth. May you be transformed by God's great love and grace.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN "Blessed Assurance" #699 Blue Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P: Renewed and refreshed, let us go forth in peace to share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

*POSTLUDE: Recessional John Wiegand

NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Jim Bahorik

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Bahorik

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S GREETER – Jean 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 green 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.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by The Rev. Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop. We welcome him and pray God's blessing on him as he ministers to us this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Sieber and Ona Stoner's 70th Wedding Anniversary by Dan and Michelle Stoner.

AS WE MAKE OUR THANKOFFERINGS TODAY, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would take action. Gathering in groups called "cent" or "mite" societies, each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. When Women of the ELCA was formed 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with the hope for all that is to come, let us now give our thankoffering.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. B. Phillips, Bible Translator (1906 – 1982): Every time we say "I believe in the Holy Spirit," we believe there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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 the church office at 436-6213 or 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.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. 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.

TODAY IS OUR ANNUAL THANKOFFERING CELEBRATION – A special thanks to the Messiah Women of the ELCA for organizing our worship service and to all who participated. All loose offering received plus all the Thankoffering envelopes that are included with your bulletin today will go to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA for their many projects. None of the money is kept locally. Extra envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please make checks payable to “Messiah Women of the ELCA.” Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU to the following people who are helping with our Thankoffering Service today: Cindy Van Gavree, Joyce Spangler and Pat Cook. Thanks also to everyone who is attending our meal and brought delicious covered dishes.

A VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2017 following the worship service. Business: approval of the 2018 proposed budget and board reports.

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

REQUEST from the Board of Worship & Music: In light of our congregation’s recent acceptance of Messiah’s Mission Statement (including “...making disciples of Christ through Fellowship...”), we invite more of the congregation to sit in the main sanctuary during the worship service. Unifying everyone into one space will help make us more welcoming to all members and visitors as well as creating a sense of community, sharing and togetherness. Worship Leaders will be able to better “connect” and “communicate” to all worshipers (and you to them) during the service. Other benefits include better sound while singing hymns, listening to the sermons/anthems/special music and an easier time of “Sharing the Peace.” Also, give us your feedback regarding the removal of several rows of pews in the sanctuary and replacing them with soft chairs. Thanks for making this positive transition to your worship experience!

HOME COMMUNION NEEDS HELP – The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for at least two people who would like to give communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins will be used on a quarterly basis. Training is available. Complete Home Communion kits are also available, including all liturgy needed. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey at 717-436-6433 or geedey@centurylink.net.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

November 5, 2017

Worship Service

Attendance – 50
 Sunday School – 32

Total Offering \$2,490.00
 Other Funds \$ 160.00
 General Fund \$2,330.00

Other Funds

Benevolence –	\$ 200.00
Building Fund –	\$ 165.00
Sunday School –	\$ 50.00
Other Building Use -	<u>\$ 61.00</u>
Total	\$ 160.00

NITTANY ENERGY (formerly Hilltop Oil) CHURCH PROGRAM – for every gallon of heating oil purchased by participating church members from September 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018, Nittany Energy will donate FOUR CENTS per gallon back to the church’s heating oil account at the end of each month. One parishioner purchasing 800 gallons of oil during the heating season will save the church \$32.00 per year on their heating oil. **From November to May of last heating season Messiah’s Nittany Energy church program saved the church \$207.53.** If you participated last year then you are already enrolled. Questions – ask any Property member.

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

COPIES OF JULY 5th AND JULY 29th 2017 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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.

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2018 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 Sam Leister 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.

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.

THANK YOU to Butch and Sandy Pines for their cards and to all at Messiah for the prayers and thoughts.

Randy Clark

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.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – The sign-up chart for needed gifts is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are due back at the church by Sunday, December 10th wrapped or bagged with a name tag with the child’s first name and family number on the tag.

COMMUNITY

A HYMN SING will be held at the Upper Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, 589 Brick Church Road, East Waterford, PA on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. The “Strung-Out” Dulcimer Band of Juniata County will perform. There will be a FREE-WILL offering with proceeds given to the Juniata County Food Pantry. (See poster on bulletin board in Kitchenette).

A PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING TEA will be held in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2017. We will reflect on our many blessings and give thanks for them as well as enjoying a social time to start the Holiday Season. A Christmas Tea will also be held at the same place and time on December 14, 2017. This event will feature a Christmas Carol Sing-along with The Boyz, the popular men’s local singing group. Please join us as we celebrate this special time of year—all are welcome!

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NOVEMBER UPDATE

Our stockpile of Thanksgiving and Christmas foods is growing steadily, but we are far behind where we need to be to pack 350 or more Thanksgiving boxes for local families by our distribution date of November 18. We would be so grateful for your help. And speaking of November 18th, don’t miss the 10th annual “Save Thanksgiving Benefit Concert” on that same day at 6:00 p.m. at the CJEMS building. Many local bands will be performing and admission is a donation of cash or food to benefit the Food Pantry!

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS STILL NEEDED:

Turkeys (around 12 lbs.) or Turkey Beasts; Hams (3-5 lbs.); Stuffing; Canned Fruits; Instant Mashed Potatoes; Canned Sweet Potatoes; Cake Mix and Icing; or other Dessert Mix; **or a \$20 donation will purchase one complete meal!**

THE INTERNATIONAL GIFTS & BAKE SALE will be held at Cedar Grove Brethren In Christ Church at 287 Deerville Road, Mifflintown on Friday, November 17th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 18th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit us on Facebook or at www.juniatainternationalgiftssale.com.

Messiah's December Christmas Events

Please invite others to join us as we prepare ourselves in anticipation of
The coming of the Christ Child!

- December 3: First Sunday of Advent: A light lunch (prepared by the Fellowship Committee) will be held after the worship service. Decoration of the church will follow the lunch.
- December 10: Second Sunday of Advent: **"Hanging of the Greens"** program during the morning worship service.
- December 17: Third Sunday of Advent: The morning worship service will include the annual **Children's Program**.
- December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve:
9:15 AM, Sunday School
10:30 AM, Worship Service
7:00 PM, Christmas Eve Music Prelude Service
7:30 PM, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services will begin with a **Prelude Service at 7:00 PM** featuring our own Bob St. Clair and June Bricker showcasing their talents with organ, and piano and organ duets. Also performing on the piano will be Samuel Gutierrez Felix, a concert pianist from Spain currently being hosted as an exchange student by John and Kim White. **The Candlelight Service will begin at 7:30 PM** and will include singing of Carols and special anthem music by the Jr. and Sr. Choirs. Andrea Cameron will also be performing "Ave Maria" during the lighting of the candles. We are additionally blessed that Messiah was selected as one of four local church services by our local radio station, Juniata County Radio, for **live broadcast** on Christmas Eve! Please plan to attend this beautiful service for the whole family in anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Thankoffering Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: The Rev. Craig Miller).
-Fall Fest in Fellowship Hall following Worship Service.
- Monday:** -Kitchen reserved.
-6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in the Jr. Church Room.
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Lay Worship Leader: Jim Bahorik).