

THE MESSIAH HERALD



December, 2017

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

INTERIM PASTOR -- Rev. Chris Mathiason -- cmathiason001@luthersem.edu

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: messiahlutheran@pa.net

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES! – 9:15 AM
WORSHIP, JR. CHURCH, & COMMUNION – 10:30 AM

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

"Growing God's Love"

The Messiah Herald



LIGHT DAWNS – CHRISTMAS, 2017

Ancient symbols depicting the gospel writers are a winged man for Matthew, a winged lion for Mark, a winged bull for Luke, and for John . . . an eagle. It is said that the eagle is the only creature that can stare, unblinking, directly at the sun without looking away. Similarly, John the evangelist seems to point directly at God, unblinking and unafraid.

John's Christmas story doesn't involve sheep, a stable, shepherds, or magi. The holy family is not mentioned. It is hard to write the nativity play and cast the Sunday school children when the characters are Word, life, and light. John wants us to know, before his story fully begins, that the Word of God has been present from the beginning, and yet is still coming into the world among us.

On Christmas Eve, worship spaces are dimly lighted, filled with the smell of beeswax and hope, as the world sets vigil, awaiting the arrival of the baby. On Christmas morning light fills the room. The candlelight is swallowed up by sunlight. No one is sitting in the shadows of the stable; now they're standing to receive the Word, flesh living among us.

It is a custom or sign of reverence to bow toward symbols in our worship that convey God's presence or movement. When a processional cross comes down the aisle the assembly turns toward it and may bow. When the gospel book is read from or elevated, some make the sign of the cross. When the bread and wine are at the altar, fully Christ's body and blood, some bow. Less often do we see the presiding minister bow to the assembly, but maybe we should.

Whenever the assembly, fed by word and meal, is sent from this place, we are the bearers of light, life, and the Word made flesh to the world.

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CHRIST IN OUR HOME

A reminder to anyone who would like a daily devotional to jump start their day. There are plenty of devotionals in "Christ in our Home," which can be picked up and are FREE.....and are located at the back of the adult Sunday school room. Get yours today!

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to contribute to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to **Juniata Meals-On-Wheels, P.O. Box 251, Mifflintown, PA 17059.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

Bob & Jeanette St. Clair	Jim Woltman
Avonel & Rick Waller, Sr.	Randy Clark
Andrea & Bob Cameron	Joan Fulkroad
Pat Fisher	Minnie Minick
John Miller	Megan Hart
Mary Ernest	Austin Parker
Don Clark	Jean McNaight
Butch & Sandy Pines	Terry Coder
Tom Lyter	John Towsey
Steve Bahorik	Dr. Laurie Cox
Paul Goss	Bob Bell
Pat Forney	The Family of Letha Swab
Barbara Wengerd	Messiah's Call Committee

...AND FOR OUR SHUT-INS

VALLEY VIEW NURSING HOME

(ROOM 401A, 4702 EAST MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE,
PA 17004)

Jean McNaight

BROOKLINE MANOR & REHAB SERVICES

(2 MANOR BLVD., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Sara Ann Aurand, Reba Sigler

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(62 LEXI STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Carol Simonton

NORTHRIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

(99 NORTHRIDGE DR., MCALISTERVILLE, PA 17049)

Dottie Smith

RICHFIELD HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER

(ROOM 6, 631 MAIN ST, RICHFIELD, PA 17086)

Dorothy Cleck

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108,
THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

LEHIGH CENTER

(1718 SPRING CREEK ROAD, ROOM 205B, MACUNGIE,
PA 18062)

Lura Aughey

AT HOME

Jim Yetter	Betty Karstetter
128 Manbeck Drive	918 William Penn Hwy.
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters	Mona Lawson
P.O. Box 61	2792 William Penn Hwy.
Port Royal, PA 17082	Mifflintown, PA 17059

PRAYER REQUEST REMINDER!!

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 717-436-6213 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.

A REQUEST FOR ALL OF US!

A request has been brought forth 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!



Thank you for the nice fruit basket that was delivered to me by Messiah youth group. It was very much appreciated. - JEAN McNAIGHT

Thank you to the youth of Messiah for bringing me the lovely fruit basket. Thanks also for the altar flowers that I receive from the church throughout the year. Everything is greatly appreciated. -SARA ANN AURAND

We would like to thank Messiah for the flowers and the Messiah youth for the fruit basket. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. -SIEBER & ONA STONER

The WELCA and Needlers would like to thank Ed and Ann Beaver, Sam and Linda Leister, Don and Drew Geedey, and (Kathy and Jeff Whitesel from St. Stephen's) for loading and delivering the quilts, school kits, and soap to Lewisburg on Saturday, October 14th. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with these items!

A BIG thank you to Ed and Ann Beaver for taking the 10 Seafarers' Bags to Lewisburg and a thank you to the congregation for donating the items and signing the cards so that the men and women who are at sea during the holidays know that someone at home is thinking of them and praying for their safety.

Thank you to Butch and Sandy Pines for their cards and to all at Messiah for the prayers and thoughts. --RANDY CLARK

Thank you to the following people who helped with our Thankoffering Service on November 12th: Cindy Van Gavree, Joyce Spangler and Pat Cook. Thanks also to everyone who is attending our meal and brought delicious covered dishes.

THANK YOU to our friends at Messiah Lutheran Church for your generous donation to the Juniata County Food Pantry. Your gift will not only provide your neighbors with essential food and supplies, but will also give them home that someone cares. Bless you for supporting our mission to fight hunger as we reach out to the more than 3,000 adults, children, and elderly living in poverty in Juniata County. -- YOUR FRIENDS AT THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

OUR CHRISTMAS ANGELS

The Christmas Angel project has begun! Sign-up for a gift 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 child's first name and family number on the tag.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THESE DATES FOR DECEMBER'S CHRISTMAS EVENTS! ALSO, PLEASE INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN US AS WE PREPARE OURSELVES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COMING OF THE CHRIST CHILD!

DECEMBER 3RD: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Enjoy our morning worship, a light lunch prepared by the Fellowship committee then an early afternoon of family fellowship as we **decorate the church** for the Christmas season.

DECEMBER 10TH: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: a portion of the morning worship service will include the annual "Hanging of the Greens" program.

DECEMBER 17TH: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The morning worship service will include the annual **Children's Program**.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH IS BOTH THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE: In the morning we will hold regular Sunday School and Advent Worship services with Candlelight Christmas Eve services held that evening.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - MUSIC PRELUDE SERVICE AT 7:00 PM WITH OUR CANDLELIGHT SERVICE BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM. We are also excited to announce that Messiah is one of three local church services selected by our local radio station, Juniata County Radio, for **live broadcast** on Christmas Eve!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



MESSIAH LUTHERAN

3 South Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Service Time: 7:00PM

LAY WORSHIP LEADER SAM LEISTER

Candlelight Christmas Eve services will begin with a **Prelude service at 7:00 PM** featuring our own Samuel Gutierrez Felix performing on the piano. Samuel is a concert pianist from Spain currently being hosted as an exchange student by host parents 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 three 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!!

Meet our Featured Christmas Eve Musician – **SAMUEL GUTIERREZ**

Samuel Gutierrez, 15, is a foreign exchange student from the town of Malaga, Spain and is the guest of host parents and Messiah members John and Kim White. Samuel has been studying piano since the young age of four, with his favorite composer being Chopin. Samuel will be providing music during our prelude concert on Christmas Eve! Samuel is currently attending Juniata High School and describes his hometown of Malaga, as being larger than Mifflintown, but smaller than a city. His reason for wanting to be a foreign exchange student was that he “...thought that it would be good for learning English, another culture, and it would open doors for my future, but living in another place. We welcome Samuel to Messiah and invite you to come and enjoy his selection of music to help prepare us all for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!



PHOTO AND ARTICLE INFORMATION
COURTESY OF THE JUNIATA SENTINEL,
OCTOBER 18, 2017 EDITION.

DECEMBER SERVANTS

LECTORS

3 Cynthia Smith	24 Jean Compton
10 Andrea Cameron	31 Diana Wise
17 Bob St. Clair	

ALTAR GUILD

November 27 to December 3..... Linda Clark
 December 4 to 17 Tawny Mummah
 December 18 to 31 Linda Clark (and Diana Wise)

ACOLYTES

3 Hannah Ehrisman & Julia Martin
10 Braedon Walton & Zeb Berry
17 Hope Miller & Sloan Smith
24 AM Harrison Mummah & Braedon Walton
24 PM Zeb Berry & Julia Martin
31 Haley Mummah & Hannah Ehrisman

ALTAR FLOWERS

3 & 10 OPEN
17 Judy Armstrong

GREETERS

3 Cynthia Smith
10 Ray and Jane Miller
17 Kevin and Kate Swailes

UPCOMING WORSHIP LEADERS

December 3.....	The Rev. Robert Logan
December 10.....	Sam Leister
December 17.....	Andrea Cameron
December 24 (AM).....	The Rev. Paul Kampa
Christmas Eve Service	Sam Leister
December 31.....	Stephen Rodgers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2017

DECEMBER 4 – Jean Berry
 DECEMBER 5 – Silas Smith
 DECEMBER 11 – Gene Crissman
 DECEMBER 15 -- Jane McNaught Shearer
 DECEMBER 25 – OUR SAVIOR, JESUS
 DECEMBER 26 – Emma Arentz

STORE GIFT CARDS

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.



The WELCA met on Thursday, November 9, 2017 in the Young Adults Sunday School Class. Due to low attendance at this meeting, Ann Beaver will present her program in January. Cynthia reported that she received \$726.00 for blankets which will be forwarded to the Synod Office. THANK YOU TO THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION FOR YOUR HELP.

Barb reminded those present that our December meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th in the Young Adult/Disciples Class area. Everyone is to bring a reading, Christmas or otherwise, and a snack, cookie, candy, bread, etc. of your choice to share with the group.

Barb also asked that the group think of projects they would like to work on for next year. We will discuss them in January.

Our group closed with the WELCA Purpose Statement.

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.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & PRAYER FOCUS

DECEMBER 1----- PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19
THOSE STILL WAITING FOR RELIEF FROM THEIR WOES

DECEMBER 2 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9
THOSE AFRAID TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

DECEMBER 3 ----- MARK 13:24-37
911 DISPATCHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

DECEMBER 4 ----- HOSEA 6:1-6
THOSE WHO TRUST RICHES TO SAVE THEM

DECEMBER 5 ----- EZEKIEL 36:24-28
THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

DECEMBER 6 ----- MARK 11:27-33
PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS

DECEMBER 7 ----- ISAIAH 40:1-11
ENGINEERS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

DECEMBER 8 ----- PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13
THOSE WHO DON'T TRUST GOD

DECEMBER 9 ----- 2 PETER 3:8-15A
THOSE WHO FEAR THE FUTURE

DECEMBER 10 ----- MARK 1:1-8
GODPARENTS AND BAPTISMAL SPONSORS

DECEMBER 11 ----- MALACHI 2:10 - 3:1
THOSE SERVING IN REFUGEE CAMPS

DECEMBER 12 ----- LUKE 1:5-17
THOSE LONGING FOR AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

DECEMBER 13 ----- HABAKKUK 3:13-19
THOSE LIVING IN WAR-TORN PLACES

DECEMBER 14 ----- ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11
THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THE JOY OF LIVING IN GOD'S COVENANT

DECEMBER 15 ----- PSALM 126
THOSE SERVING ON COMMITTEES IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 16-----1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24
THOSE SUFFERING THIS WINTER BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE HEAT

DECEMBER 17----- JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28
CAMPUS MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 18-----HEBREWS 1:1-4
THOSE WHO PROVIDE COMPUTER SUPPORT

DECEMBER 19----- HEBREWS 1:5-14
THOSE WHO ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH LIFE

DECEMBER 20 -----JOHN 7:40-52
THOSE PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

DECEMBER 21----- 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16
HOUSE BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

DECEMBER 22 ----- PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26
NEWCOMERS TO THE FAITH

DECEMBER 23 ----- ROMANS 16:25-27
GUESTS WHO JOIN US TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24 ----- LUKE 1:26-38
SINGLE PARENTS

DECEMBER 25 ----- LUKE 2:1-14, (15-20)
DISPLACED PEOPLE AND REFUGEES

DECEMBER 26 ----- PSALM 17:1-9, 15
THOSE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH

DECEMBER 27 ----- JOHN 21:20-25
THOSE DEALING WITH SIBLING RIVALRIES

DECEMBER 28 -----MATTHEW 2:16-18
CHILDREN HARMED BY VIOLENCE AND WAR

DECEMBER 29 ----- PSALM 148
STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION

DECEMBER 30 ----- GALATIANS 4:4-7
ESTATE PLANNERS AND EXECUTORS

DECEMBER 31-----LUKE 2:22-40
ELDERS AND MENTORS IN THE FAITH

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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.

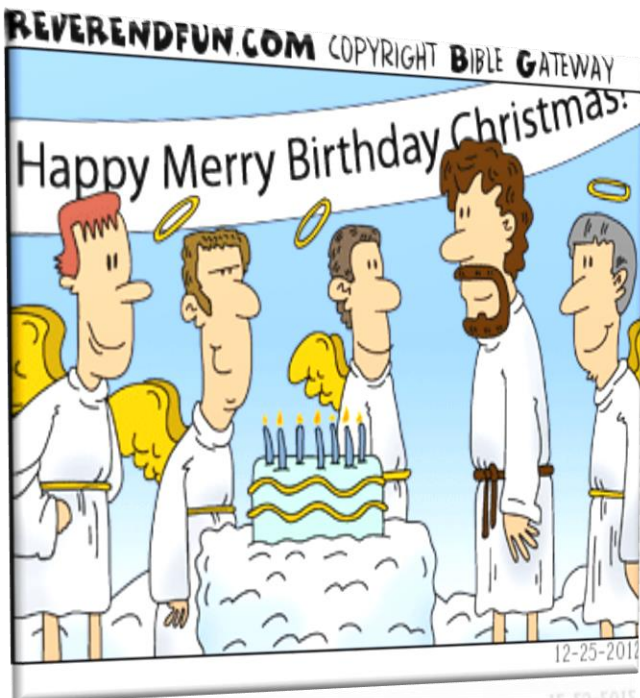
NITTANY OIL CHURCH PROGRAM

For every gallon of heating oil purchased by participating church members from September 1, 2017 to 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. If you have any questions, please ask any Property Committee member.

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS – NOVEMBER 5 TO 26, 2017

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
Nov* 5	64 – Worship 31 – S.S.	\$4,460.00	\$3,924.00	Benevolence -- \$185.00 Sunday School -- \$73.00 Building Fund -- \$235.00 Junior Church -- \$18.00 Memorial Fund -- \$25.00
Nov* 12	56 – Worship 24 – S.S.	\$2,714.00	\$2,007.00	Benevolence -- \$110.00 Sunday School -- \$82.00 Building Fund -- \$385.00 Flowers -- \$110.00 Summer Camp -- \$20.00
Nov* 19	55 – Worship 26 – S.S.	\$1,963.40	\$1,490.00	Benevolence -- \$60.00 Sunday School -- \$35.00 Building Fund -- \$85.00 Jr. Church -- \$20.00 World Hunger -- \$200.00 Disaster Relief -- \$50.00 Flowers -- \$23.40
Nov* 26	61 – Worship 19 – S.S.	\$3,765.80	\$3,195.00	Benevolence -- \$195.00 Sunday School -- \$43.00 Building Fund -- \$285.00 Flowers -- \$7.80 Jr. Church -- \$20.00 Disaster Relief -- \$20.00



JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER UPDATE

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

With your help, by the time you read this notice we will have distributed over 350 Thanksgiving meals to our Juniata County neighbors in need! In December we'll attempt to do it all again-for Christmas!

The Food Pantry served 366 families in October – 1042 individuals. Many thanks to Bunkertown Brethren in Christ Church for providing volunteers in October.

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

All non-perishable foods, over the counter cold and flu medicines, paper towels, Cough drops, dish detergent, laundry detergent, and diapers (size 5 &6)

HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

A \$20 donation will purchase the groceries for a complete Holiday meal for one family

DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tue 9-12 and 1-5, and Sat 9-12

REMINDER! Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. *Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is here to receive them. Thank you!

***PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE
JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.**

(CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH).

Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com



**Find us on:
facebook®**

CONTINUED SUPPORT

APPRECIATED

DEAR FRIENDS OF MESSIAH.....Randy has been transferred to his "home" prison in Chester, PA. He has been entered into a program with intense training on how to control his addictive behavior. If you wish to send a card or letter, his new address is:

Randal S. Clark NB5960
SCI Chester
500 East Fourth Street
Chester, PA 19013

Remember, no glitter, stickers, labels, etc., on the card or envelope. Write your return address on the envelope. In his letters to us, he always wants us to express his well wishes to all of you. Thank you for your continued prayers, love, and support to Randy and to us. In Christian Love, *JERRY, CADE, & LINDA CLARK*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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."

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, December 3: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Choir (Worship Leader: The Rev. Robert Logan)
-Following Worship – Light Luncheon in Social Hall, followed by decorating of the church for Christmas
- Monday, December 4: -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, December 5: -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, December 6: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
-7:00 p.m., Juniata County 4-H Beef & Breeders Club in Youth Area
- Thursday, December 7: -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
- Sunday, December 10: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT/HANGING OF THE GREENS
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Sam Leister)
- Monday, December 11: -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, December 12: -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, December 13: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, December 14: -7:00 p.m., WELCA Meeting/Christmas Party in Young Adults SS area
- Sunday, December 17: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron)
- Monday, December 18: -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, December 19: -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, December 20: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, December 21: -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
- Saturday, December 23: -9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Quilter’s Guild in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Worship Leader: The Rev. Paul Kampa)
-7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Prelude Concert
-7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Worship Service of Song, Communion, and Candlelight (Worship Leader: Sam Leister)
- Monday, December 25: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**
-8:00 p.m., AA in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, December 26: -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall
- Friday, December 29: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- Sunday, December 31: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers)



**Messiah Lutheran Church
Poinsettia and/or
Lutheran Disaster Response
Order Form**



In keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, poinsettias may now be purchased for our services this holiday season in honor or memory of loved ones. They will be used to beautify our altar area to help us celebrate the holiday season. We are also including another way to honor or to remember loved ones this holiday season by making a donation in their name to the Lutheran Disaster Response effort. In the wake of this year's many weather disasters and because of those still suffering, we added this worthwhile opportunity for those who may not usually consider purchasing a poinsettia.

Please complete the order form below and attach **a check for either type (payment or donation)**, made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church" and print **Poinsettias or Lutheran Disaster Response** in the memo line. Attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by **DECEMBER 9, 2017**. **PAYMENT OR DONATION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!**

Thank you for helping to beautify our space, and/or supporting Lutheran Disaster Response!

Please note, that if you are making a donation for the disaster response effort, our Treasurer will keep track of all money received for that cause and write one check at the end of the Christmas season from our church to the Lutheran Disaster Response and also enclose a listing of those who were honored or remembered. As in the past, a full listing of either a Poinsettia or a Donation (will not include the amount of the donation) with those persons honored or remembered will be listed in the bulletin for Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday.

FLOWERS MAY BE PICKED UP ANYTIME FOLLOWING OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017.

POINSETTIA /Lutheran Disaster Response ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS –

Please check one: In Honor Of OR In Memory Of

I would like to order and/or donate as follows:

6" Poinsettia (4 to 5 blooms) \$7.80 each: # of plants ____ x \$7.80 = \$ _____

Donation to Lutheran Disaster Response in the amount of _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH:

WE CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR AND THE GOSPEL AS THE POWER OF GOD FOR THE SALVATION OF ALL WHO BELIEVE.

STATEMENT OF VISION:

TO GROW GOD'S KINGDOM BY ENRICHING OUR FAITH AND EXPANDING OUR WITNESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION, OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD.

STATEMENT OF MISSION:

TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST OF ALL PEOPLE BY TEACHING GOD'S GRACE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP, THROUGH THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD, THROUGH SERVICE TO OTHERS AND WITNESS TO ALL.

OUR MLC 2017 SHORT-TERM GOALS:

- 1) CALL A PASTOR
 - i. COMPLETE OUR MISSION SITE PROFILE
 1. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
 2. BUDGET ANALYSIS
 - ii. SELECT A CALL COMMITTEE
- 2) INCREASE ATTENDANCE TO 75p/SUNDAY
 - i. INCREASE CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES
 - ii. INCREASE YOUTH ACTIVITIES
 - iii. INCREASE CONTACT WITH CURRENT MEMBERS
 - iv. INCREASE SERVICE PROJECTS
 - v. EXTEND BUILDING USE TO COMMUNITY
 - vi. IMPROVE SOCIAL MEDIA USE
- 3) RECRUIT MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR GOAL IMPLEMENTATION
- 4) INCREASE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

OUR MLC LONG TERM GOALS:

- 1) HAVE A FULL-TIME PASTOR
- 2) INCREASE MEMBERSHIP
- 3) FOSTER A “GROWTH MENTALITY” WITHIN MLC
- 4) FOCUS ON YOUNG FAMILIES
- 5) EXPAND WORLD MISSION EFFORTS
- 6) FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- 7) IMPROVE STEWARDSHIP HABITS
- 8) IMPLEMENT YEARLY GOALS REVIEW

UPDATED MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH/COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS LISTING

Women of ELCA (WELCA) – contact Barb S. Geedey, 717-436-6433

Knitters Group – contact Barb S. Geedey, 717-436-6433

Needlers Group – contact Linda Leister, 717-436-8589

Senior Choir – Andrea Cameron

Junior Choir and Sunday School – Linda Clark

Summer Bible School – Linda Clark

Summer Church Camp Mount Luther – Kate Swailes

Funeral Meals – contact Cynthia Smith, 717-436-8512

Community Home Repair/Yard Work – “Doc” Johnston, 717-436-9209

Prayer concerns, Sunday Bulletin –

Church office email: messiahlutheran@pa.net, or

Church office phone: 717-436-6213

Community groups with MLC volunteers:

Fundraiser Groups such as Crop Walk and Relay for Life

Meals on Wheels Volunteers – contact Sharon Ritzman 717-463-2096

Juniata County Food Pantry Volunteers – 717-436-9718



*MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM OUR FAMILY TO
YOURS!
BLESSINGS & LOVE*