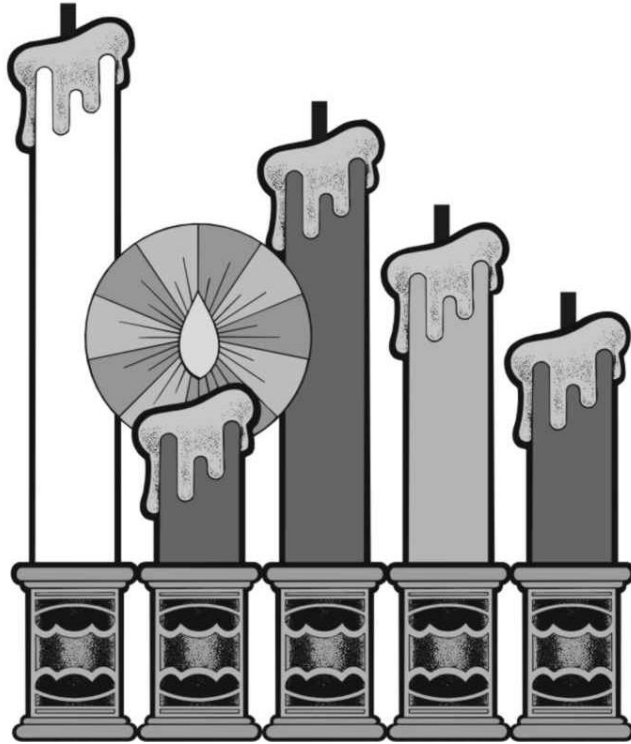


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3rd, 2017

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

EMAIL:

messiahlutheran@pa.net

WEBSITE:

www.mlcmifflintown.org

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
The Rev. Robert Logan
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Linda Clark
Cynthia Smith
Linda Clark
Hannah Ehrisman & Julia Martin
Cynthia Smith

Interim Pastor
Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Junior Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Greeter

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2017 – 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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Rev. Robert Logan

* 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.

*** BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING

*** ENTRANCE HYMN** “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” #34 Green Hymnal

*** 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 awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

The First Lesson is from the 64th chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L – Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

All – Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Second Lesson is from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our 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. 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.

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

* GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

The Rev. Robert Logan

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

#25 Green Hymnal

* 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 Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

P Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV and AIDS, and those who are in any kind of need (especially all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, 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, Terry Coder, John Towsey, Jean McNaight, Steve Bahorik, and Barbara Wengerd. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, 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:

[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: "Advent Tells Us Christ Is Near" & "Whirl" Junior Choir

* 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.

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P May 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

“The King Shall Come”

#33 Green Hymnal

* 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 – Andrea Cameron

Next Week's Altar Guild – Tawny Mummah

Next Week's Acolytes – Braedon Walton & Zeb Berry

Next Week's Greeters – Ray & Jane Miller

Next Week's Lay Worship Leader – Sam Leister

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

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by The Rev. Robert Logan. We welcome him and pray God's blessing on him as he ministers to us this morning.

JUST A THOUGHT – Francis August Scheaffer, Christian Thinker: Man still stands in the image of God – twisted, broken, abnormal, but still the image bearer of God.

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.

THE DECEMBER 2017 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office (messiahlutheran@pa.net) and Bob St. Clair (stclairb@embarqmail.com) prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at www.mlcmiffintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

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!

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

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 26, 2017

Worship Service

Attendance – 61

Sunday School – 19

Total Offering \$3,765.80

Other Funds \$ 570.80

General Fund \$3,195.00

Other Funds

Benevolence – \$ 195.00

Building Fund – \$ 285.00

Sunday School – \$ 43.00

Flowers - \$ 7.80

Disaster Relief - \$ 20.00

Junior Church - \$ 20.00

Total \$ 570.80

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

COPIES OF OCTOBER 22, 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.

JEAN MCNAIGHT is now at Valley View Nursing Home in Belleville. If you would like to send her a card, her address is:

Jean McNaight
Room 401A
Valley View Nursing Home
4702 East Main Street
Belleville, PA 17004

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.

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 PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TEA will be held in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. 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 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.

* * * * *

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 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 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!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion (Worship Leader: The Rev. Robert Logan).
-Light lunch following the worship service.
-Decoration of the church following lunch.
- Monday:** -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.
-7 p.m., Juniata County 4-H Beef & Breeders Club in Youth Area.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT/HANGING OF THE GREENS.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).