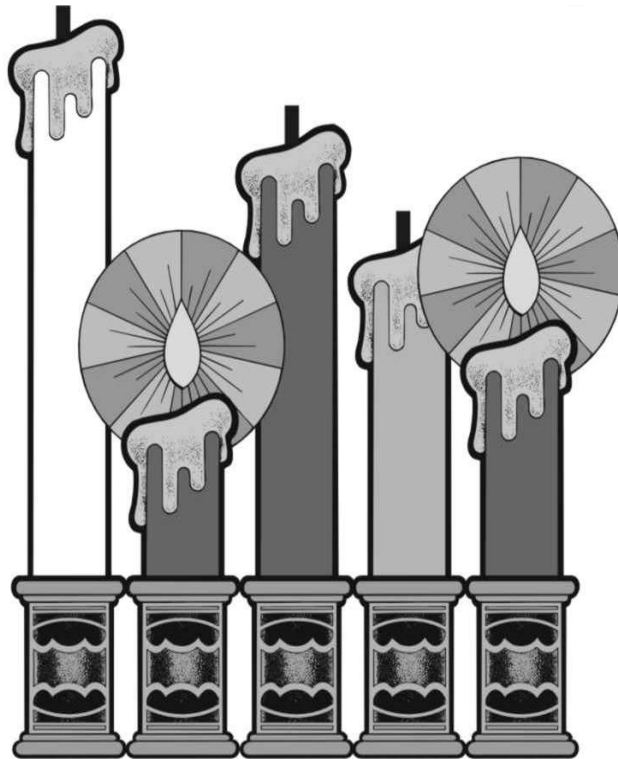


# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT HANGING OF THE GREENS*

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

***EMAIL:***

[messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net)

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[www.mlcmifflintown.org](http://www.mlcmifflintown.org)

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office / 4366213

The Rev. Chris Mathiason  
Sam Leister  
June Bricker  
Andrea Cameron  
Andrea Cameron  
Tawny Mummah  
Braedon Walton & Zeb Berry  
Ray and Jane Miller

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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Hanging of the Greens Service (Chrismons) December 10, 2017– 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

#### \* 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 for reflection and self-examination.

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.**

\* OPENING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway” #26 Green Hymnal

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

**C Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### HEART

HYMN - “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (vs. 1)

Of the Fa – ther’s love be – got – ten  
ere the worlds be – gan to be,  
he is Al – pha and O – me – ga,  
he the source, the end – ing he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that fu – ture years shall see,  
ev – er – more and ev – er – more.

The heart is a universal symbol of love. Our hearts beat within us each with its own rhythm, sometimes fickle and uneven. God’s love, however, is steadfast and always faithful to his word.

**C: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)**

**Worship Leader** – Eternal Father, you have held us and all of creation in your constant love. You feed us with the product of the field and vine, clothe us and shelter us against the elements and deliver us by your grace, may your Holy Spirit dwell in us that our hearts may be one with yours. Amen

### NINE POINT STAR

HYMN – “The First Noel” (vss. 1 & 2)

The first No – el the an – gel did say  
was to cer – tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keep – ing their sheep,  
on a cold win – ter’s night that was so deep.

They look – ed up and saw a star  
shin – ing in the east be – yond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it con – tin – ued both day and night.

Refrain

No – el, No – el, No – el, No – el!  
Born is the King of Is – ra – el.

Known as, ‘The Fruit of the Spirit Star,’ each of the points represent one of the nine attributes of the fruit of the Spirit found in St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians. For those who live guided by and within the love of God these fruits grow as naturally as grapes on a vine. These fruits build up the community of faith and our relationship with our neighbor. The Christmas story gathers divergent people together, Mary and Joseph, shepherds and Wisemen, beast and angels into the story of His love and the heavenly light of a star.

**C: “The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”** (Galatians 5:22-23)

**Worship Leader** – Gracious Father as you have held us in the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, may we, filled with your Spirit, learn to live in love and community with each other. May we constantly bear your gifts in our lives, caring for neighbor and creation. Amen

**ANGEL**

HYMN – “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (vs. 1)

An – gels, from the realms of glo – ry.  
wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
once you sang cre – a – tion’s sto – ry;  
now pro – claim Mes – si – ah’s birth.

Refrain

Come and wor – ship, come and wor – ship,  
wor – ship Christ, the new – born king.

Angels are the messengers of God. Each time we read of angels in scripture they are involved in the story of salvation history. Their work is revealing or guiding some new way in which the story of God’s love and grace moves us towards the cross of Christ and God’s ultimate act of love. The angels in the Christmas story announce to us the arrival of our Savior in the child of Bethlehem.

**C: “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”**  
(Hebrews 1:14)

**Worship Leader** – Almighty God, Lord of all creation and to who even the angels bow, lead us by your light into the darkness of the world that we like the angels may be messengers of your Holy Word. Send us bearing the light of the Gospel to those who need to hear the promise of your love. Amen

### **SHEPHERD’S CROOK**

HYMN – “Silent Night, Holy Night!” (vss. 1 & 2)

Si – lent night, ho – ly night!

All is calm, all is bright  
round yon vir – gin moth – er and child,  
Ho – ly in – fant, so ten – der and mild,  
sleep in heav – en – ly peace,  
sleep in heav – en – ly peace.

Si – lent night, ho – ly night!

Shep-herds quake at the sight;  
glo – ries stream from heav – en a – far,  
heav’n – ly hosts sing, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Christ, the Sav – ior is born!  
Christ, the Sav – ior is born!

The Shepherds crook is a symbol of the care of God for his people. At times the crook could be used to prod the sheep along and at others it could be used to help pull a sheep or lamb to safety. God continues to guide us with his Word both Law and Gospel, sometimes prodding us to repentance and in others proclaiming to us the life changing grace of the Gospel.

**C: “The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep....I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”** (John 10:2, 11, 14)

**Worship Leader** – Holy shepherd, reveal to us the ways in which we wander from your will and in steadfast love for us rescue us from ourselves, our sin and the world. Amen

**DOVE OF PEACE** HYMN – “Away in a Manger” (vss. 1 & 3)

A – way in a man – ger, no crib for his bed,  
the lit – tle Lord Je – sus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the lit – tle Lord Je – sus a – sleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Je – sus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for – ev – er and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear chil – dren in your ten – der care  
and fit us for heav – en, to live with you there.

Traditionally the dove represents peace, and is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. All four gospels report this presence of the Holy Spirit in a dove at the baptism of Jesus.

**C:** “...the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. (John 14:26-27)

**Worship Leader** – Holy Spirit of God fill our hearts with your eternal peace in this season. When life is filled with strife and struggle guide us into peace and reconciliation with those we have been in conflict, in our lives, in our community and in the world. Amen

**FISH**

HYMN – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs. 1)

Good Chris-tian friends, re – joice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say;  
Je – sus Christ is born to – day;  
ox and ass be – fore him bow,  
and he is in the man – ger now.  
Christ is born to – day!  
Christ is born to – day!

ICHTHUS is the Greek acrostic for, “Jesus Christ Son of God, Savior,” and was also the Greek word for fish. Persecuted Christians of the early church used the fish symbol as a secret sign to identify one another. A person would draw half the fish in the sand, and another would complete the drawing to identify him or herself as a fellow believer.

**C:** “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Matthew 4:19-20)

**Worship Leader** – Gracious and merciful God, we remember those who are persecuted and for whom faith is still dangerous around the world. Keep us and all your children faithful in the struggles of life and when we are weak and fearful strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may not fall away from your gifts of faith and hope. Amen

**CROSS** HYMN – “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (vss. 1 & 4)

Lo, how a rose e’er bloom – ing  
from ten – der stem hath sprung!  
Of Jes – se’s lin – eage com – ing  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow’r so bright,  
a – mid the cold of win – ter,  
when half – spent was the night.

O Sav – ior, child of Mar – y,  
who felt our hu – man woe;  
O Sav – ior, king of glo – ry,  
who dost our weak – ness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heav – en  
and in – to end – less day.

The ever-present reminder of the price that Jesus paid for our sins. Jesus paid the debt that we owe to the Father. He in turn gives us the free gift of new life.

The Latin Cross is the most widely used cross design.

**C:** “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...” (Hebrews 12:2)

**Worship Leader** – Eternal Father, strong to save, the cross of Christ is ever before us, even in the birth of the Christ child we remember that he leads us to the cross. Forgive us our sins and keep us ever mindful of the sacrifice that you have paid for us in the birth, death and resurrection of your Son, our Savior. Amen

**CROWN** HYMN – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (vss. 1 & 3)

Hark! The her – ald an – gels sing,  
“Glo – ry to the new – born king;  
peace on earth, and mer – cy mild,  
God and sin – ners rec – on – ciled.”  
Joy – full, all you na – tions rise;  
join the tri – umph of the skies;  
with an – gel – ic hosts pro-claim,  
“Christ is born in Beth – le – hem!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris’n with heal – ing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glo – ry by,  
born that we no more may die.  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us sec – ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her – ald an – gels sing,  
“Glo – ry to the new – born king!”

The crown represents the majesty and royalty of Christ. God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. This crown is composed of three triangles representing the Trinity. The three circles represent the eternal nature of the Trinity.

**C:** “...They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.” (Revelation 4:10)

**Worship Leader** – Lord of all creation, you are the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, you entered into your creation as a vulnerable child and accepted dependence on Mary and Joseph, may you rule in our hearts and lead us to protect every child, securing for them all that is necessary for life; food, shelter, health and above all the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen

SERMON

Sam Leister

- \* HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry #36 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

- \* THE VERSE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 2)  
O come, O Wis – dom from on high, em – brac – ing all things far and nigh:  
In strength and beau – ty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em – man – u – el shall come to you, O Is – ra – el.

- \* 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 We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy,



**C hear our prayer.**

P We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (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, Barbara Wengerd, Audrey Peters, and Rich Walters. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Lord of the Church, we give thanks to you for your death and resurrection, and that you are the Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer for our Call Committee and its work of discernment, and hear our prayer for your sending to us a pastor who will be a strong partner with us in the joy and service of your Gospel for those within your Church and those beyond our walls in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. 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.

**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

- \* SUNG OFFERTORY “Let All Together Praise Our God” (revised wording)

**Let all to – geth – er praise our God Be – fore his glo – rious throne;**

**For he will o-pen heav’n a – bove 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**

- \* 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**

\* 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 “Go Tell It on the Mountain” #70 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 – Bob St. Clair

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Hope Miller and Slone Smith

NEXT WEEK'S GREETERS – Kevin and Kate Swailes

**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.

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 – M. F. Unger, Christian Thinker: Divine inspiration makes the Bible uniquely the Word of God and not merely a book containing the Word of God, and as such is different from any other book sacred or secular.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net) for any changes or requests.

**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](mailto:geedey@centurylink.net).

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

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."

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

December 3, 2017

Worship Service

Attendance – 80  
Sunday School – 26

Total Offering     \$3,434.32  
Other Funds         \$ 586.00  
General Fund        \$2,848.32

Other Funds

Benevolence –	\$	85.00
Building Fund –	\$	240.00
Sunday School –	\$	63.00
Flowers -	\$	93.60
Building Use -	\$	100.00
Disaster Relief -	\$	4.40
Total	\$	586.00

COPIES OF OCTOBER 22, 2017 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

**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 TODAY wrapped or bagged with a name tag with the child’s first name and family number on the tag.

WELCA DECEMBER MEETING will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Everyone is asked to bring a reading (Christmas or otherwise), and a snack, cookie, candy, bread, etc. of your choice to share with the group.

**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.

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**Second Sunday *of* Advent**

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## 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 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	7:00 PM, Christmas Eve Music Prelude Service
10:30 AM, Worship 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 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:** -SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.  
-HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).
- 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.
- Thursday:** -10 a.m., Port Royal Community Tea – Port Royal Lutheran Church Social Hall.  
-7 p.m., WELCA Meeting/Christmas Party in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.  
-CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).